

## Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of female survivors of human trafficking in Northern Tanzania



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**ABSTRACT:** The victims of human trafficking experience a very traumatic experience from the time they are recruited up to the time of rescue. It is without doubt that they require rehabilitation process in order for them to recover to their normal being before being given other opportunities or reintegrated back into their communities. However, many countries have limited services to the victims of human trafficking and as a result, the victims return to the trafficking cycle. In many it is not clearly stipulated who is responsible for rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims. It is from this concern the current study sought the importance of establishing and documenting information on the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Northern Tanzania. The study applied a mixed approach technique where qualitative and quantitative methods were used to get data from the study area. Seven district councils of Arusha region were involved in the study. Data collection tools included a questionnaire, focus group discussion and interview. A total of 400 girls and young women were sampled for the study. The findings revealed that only 30.2% of the respondents reported to have received some sort of assistance and service from different stakeholders. Further it was found that study few respondents (34.5%) were willing to go back to their communities while a good number (65.5%) disagreed with the idea of going back to their communities due to different reasons. Much as these services seem to be crucial for the recovery of the victims, in the current study it was reported that they victims could not receive the said services due to lack of funds for implementing this services.

**KEYWORDS:** Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Survivors, Human trafficking

### BACKGROUND

Human trafficking violates human rights, increases sense of insecurity among individuals, increases gender inequality, contravenes rule of law and affects the economy of many countries globally (USDS, 2022). The Sustainable Development Goals (5, 8 and 16) have precisely mentioned human trafficking as a global problem and that more efforts should be taken to alleviate it. Men, women and children have become victims of this heinous act for several decades now. Though men are also victims of human trafficking, women and children are said to account to about 70% of the victims (IOM, 2008; Kamazima, 2009 and, UNODC, 2014). In Africa alone it is estimated that 9.2 Million men, women and children are living in modern slavery. The region also in 2016 was estimated to have the highest prevalence of Modern slavery in the world with 7.6 per 1,000 people in the region (Global Slavery Report, 2018). The victims of trafficking are exploited in different ways including in forced labour in different agricultural, mining and horticulture activities, commercial sex, begging and organ mutilation.

In Tanzania, human trafficking is feared to be increasing (UNDP, 2011). The Global Slavery Index Report states that human trafficking in Tanzania is a problem as it is estimated that more than 336,000 people have been trafficked within and outside the country in 2018 only. The report continues to report that Tanzania is a leading country among the East African countries in human trafficking (Global Slavery Index, 2018). This information goes hand in hand with the United States Department Trafficking in Person Report of 2018 mentions Tanzania as a source, transit and also destination of trafficked human beings (Kamazima, 2009). Both adults and children fall victims to traffickers but in this study the focus will be with girls and young women.

Girls and Young women in Tanzania are said to be trafficked both internally (within the country) and sometimes internationally (outside the borders). The magnitude and extent of trafficking is yet to be established but it is believed that the movement internally (rural – urban) is high as compared to international trafficking. The victims trafficked internally are reported to work as domestic helpers, bar maids, street vendors and sometimes work as prostitutes (Magesa, 2021; Shimba *et al*, 2013; and Kamazima, 2009).

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So far much is not known about this act, since the recruitment statistics, the magnitude and the extent are still elusive. However it is believed that, a lot of girls and young women are trafficked not only within the country but also beyond borders (Mtwewe, 2012; IOM, 2008). The government have taken several measures including enacting the anti trafficking Act of 2008 and ratifying the United Nations (2000) protocol and other international instruments such as the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Children (1989), The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Children (1999). In addition to these measures in 2011, the government established the National Anti Trafficking in person Committee and its Secretariat which has the responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Anti Trafficking act of 2008. Thereafter the establishment of the Committee, in 2012 the Government formulated the Anti Trafficking in Person Action Plans for the years 2012 to 2014 and 2015 to 2017 respectively. The action plans were developed to guide responses of relevant actors to combat human trafficking in person, and they were established to prevent, protect and assist victims of human trafficking (IOM, 2016). Specifically the implementation strategies involved providing quality services to victims of human trafficking, to mobilize and coordinate state and non state actors to combat trafficking in person and also to develop standard operation procedures for identification of victims and perpetrators of human trafficking. Regardless of these efforts, it is still reported that girls and young women are trafficked at twice the rate of adult women, and UNICEF (2006) reported that, domestic workers in Tanzania are mainly less than 18 years, out of which 85% of these are girls (Mathias, 2011). Further it is reported by Mathias (2011) that in Tanzania 97% of cases of trafficking is internal involving youth between 12 and 17 years old; in terms of sex, 74% of the victims are female. The victims are trafficked mainly from Iringa, Morogoro, Singida, Dodoma and Kilimanjaro to Dar es Salaam, Arusha and to the island of Zanzibar for domestic servitude and other purposes like commercial sex trade and organ donation (Magesa, 2021).

The victims of human trafficking experience a very traumatic experience from the time they are recruited up to the time of rescue. It is without doubt that they require rehabilitation process in order for them to recover to their normal being before being given other opportunities or reintegrated back into their communities. According to USAID (2007) the Critical factors in rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration include the victims' age, physical and psychological health, background, family life, culture, duration of exploitation, and perceptions of the damage done to their person and their future as a result of having been trafficked, especially if they have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The long-term recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficking victims can involve educational and economic opportunities, as well as extended psycho-social care. With these services it is believed that the victims will be able to proceed with the normal life without becoming vulnerable to the traffickers once more.

Due to different reasons many countries have limited kind of services to the victims of human trafficking and as a result, the victims return to the trafficking cycle. In many it is not clearly stipulated who is responsible for rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims. In some cases, though stipulated many reasons including lack of funds deter the process. In Tanzania, the government have clearly stipulated these responsibilities, however lack of data of the process have made it impossible to know what is taking place when the victims of trafficking are rescued from the hands of traffickers. It is from this concern the current study sought the importance of establishing and documenting information on the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Northern Tanzania.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Study Area**

Arusha region was selected for this study based on two reasons; the first reason was the presence of human trafficking activities as Arusha region is predicted to be the second region in Tanzania, after Dar es Salaam, with high incidences of human trafficking. The presence of human trafficking activities in Arusha has been mentioned in different studies done in Tanzania. Some of the studies indicated Arusha to be the second region in Tanzania where men, women and children are trafficked for labour and sex trade. The second reason for selecting Arusha region was the lack of adequate data on the defined problem (Kamazima, 2009, IOM, 2008) as many documented researches and data have been for other regions such as Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar and none of the studies have been on the impacts of human trafficking. It is for these reasons that Arusha region was picked for this study.

### **Sampling procedure**

The study applied both probability and non probability sampling techniques to select the respondents. Simple random sampling technique was the only technique used for probability sampling. The technique was applied in obtaining girls and young women who, in a way, have been affected by human trafficking. For the case of Non probability sampling convenience and snow ball techniques were applied to get respondents for the qualitative data collection tools.

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A total of 400 girls and young women were selected for this study. The age ranged from 15 to 24 years since UN (2004) consider them as youth. For the case of qualitative tools the study had 4 focus group discussions, 14 face to face interviews and 19 key informant interviews making a total of 37 respondents.

### Data collection tools

The questionnaire was a quantitative data collection tool for this objective while focus group discussions, face to face and in depth interviews were the tools used to collect qualitative information from the respondents. In acquiring different roles as performed by the government and different stakeholders a number of questions were asked to the respondents. Among others, the respondents were inquired if they were still under captive or not; and if they were no longer under captive the study wanted to know how they were rescued or escaped from the trafficking network. Apart from their status, the study went on to probe on the rehabilitation services they were provided after being rescued. After knowing the type of services the respondents were provided with, the study inquired also if the respondents wished to be reintegrated back to their communities and the kind of job they would prefer doing once they are back in their communities.

### Data analysis

Quantitative data obtained from the questionnaire, was analysed by the use of descriptive analysis methods including frequency and percentage while data from qualitative tools i.e. face to face interviews and focus group discussions were analysed through content analysis. The following sections will discuss in detail the actions taken by different actors in rescuing, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of human trafficking in Arusha region.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Characteristics of Respondents

The age, education level and marital status of respondents were sought by the research. From the research findings it was established that, the majority (71.2%) of the respondents were at the age group of 20 to 24 years of age, while 43.8% of them reported to have been married before being trafficked. In case of their education level, a good number of them (74%) revealed that they at least have completed primary education while very few of them (1.5%) have achieved tertiary education.

### Characteristics of Respondents (n=400)

Category	Frequency	Percent
<b>Age</b>		
15-19	115	28.5
20-24	285	71.5
<b>Education level</b>		
No formal Education	39	13
Primary	210	70
Secondary	33	11
Tertiary	18	6
<b>Marital status</b>		
Have been married before	175	43.8
Have never been married	225	56.2

### The role of the Government on combating human trafficking

The Government of Tanzania fights to suppress and combat human trafficking through different Ministries and Departments; and Non Governmental stakeholders. The Governmental bodies include the Anti-Trafficking Committee through the Anti-Trafficking Secretariat in collaboration with Government departments like Police, Immigration, The National Prosecution Services Office, Judiciary, Social welfare and the local government authorities. These organizations work in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organizations, and development partners on the daily to daily activities aiming at suppression of cases of human trafficking in the country. Specifically each organization plays a different role or a role in collaboration with other departments in rescuing, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of trafficking. Further they collaborate to make sure the perpetrators of this act have been punished as per crime committed as instructed in the Anti Trafficking Act of 2008. Much as the departments work together, specific functions for each department are presented below:

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### **The Ministry of Home Affairs**

The Ministry of Home Affairs is the core ministry in making sure Trafficking in Person is suppressed and ultimately stopped. It works in collaboration with other ministries and department in this task of making this heinous act is suppressed and eventually stopped. The Ministries working with the Ministry of Home affairs include; The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Seniors and Children, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education. The Organs working with the ministry on this matter include the Anti-Trafficking Committee through the Anti-Trafficking Secretariat in collaboration with Government departments like Police, Immigration, The National Prosecution Services Office, Judiciary, Social welfare and the local government authorities. The main roles of the Ministry as stipulated in the Anti Trafficking Act (2008) are; Implement rehabilitative and protective programs for trafficked persons; provide counseling and temporary shelter to trafficked person and develop a system of accreditation among Non Governmental Organization for purposes of establishing centres and programs for intervention in various level of the community.

### **The Anti Trafficking Secretariat**

According to the Anti Trafficking Act of 2008, The National Anti Trafficking Secretariat is the major player in the fight against human trafficking in Tanzania. It works closely with the Ministry of Home affairs in all matters related to prevention and combating human trafficking. Specifically the secretariat's roles involve; Coordination of all activities aimed for Government Departments and law enforcement organs charged with matters related to trafficking in person; Make recommendations for a national plan of action against trafficking in person; Advise the Minister of Home Affairs on policy matters connected to trafficking in person; Provide advice on investigation and prosecution of offences on trafficking in person and liaise with Government Agencies and Non Governmental Organizations to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking. From these roles, it is clear that the secretariat functions as the main advisory and implementer of different strategies put forward in prevention and combating human trafficking.

### **The Police**

Traditionally the role of police officer is law enforcement within communities. They are responsible for maintaining public order and safety, enforcing the law, and preventing, detecting, and investigating criminal activities. These functions are known as policing. In case of human trafficking, these functions are further expounded as the police work in collaboration with different stakeholders in rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of human trafficking. At the local government level (district level) the police at the gender desk are the ones responsible with all matters related to human trafficking as well as gender violence. They work with the district social welfare officer, the immigration officer and the ward officers in curbing this problem. Specifically, Section 11 (2) of the Anti Trafficking Act (2008) requires the police to assist the victim of trafficking to obtain medical and psychological treatment where it is necessary; and to take the victim to a place of safety if the victim expresses a safety concern. Also they are responsible to inform the victim of their rights and any basic support which may be able to assist them. On another hand, the police officer has power to arrest the perpetrator of trafficking act as stipulated in the act. This was also stated by the police officer in charge of the Gender Desk interviewed during data collection. The Officer clearly stated that;

*" We only have few reported cases of Human trafficking per year, as our role once we have a tip of certain human trafficking movement we investigate the case and if it has truth in it then we arrest the culprits and rescue the victim in the process".*

### **Social Welfare Department**

In the local government structures in Tanzania, the social welfare officers work hand in hand with the community development officers of the district. They are actually allocated in the same department. The Social Welfare Services are integrated services that promote social development, social justice and social functioning of people. They are developed to help people function more satisfactory in their interaction with others and thus lead more fulfilling lives. They are designed to help and improve the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities and create a caring just society which respects human rights. In the case of human trafficking the role of social welfare officer is to work with other stakeholders to make sure they rescue the victim from the hands of the trafficker and afterwards make sure the victim obtain psychological and material help while waiting to be reunited with their families. This is clearly stated in the Anti Trafficking Act (2008) as;

*"The social welfare officer is responsible to provide counseling service to the victims of trafficking in person with view of assisting in rehabilitation and reintegration of victims".*

### **The Judicial process**

The judicial process starts once the case is presented by the police to the court. As a law enforcement organ the court makes sure to investigate and sentence the culprits associated with that particular offence. The Penalties given to the culprits goes from a fine

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of not less than 5 Million Tanzanian Shillings but not more than 100 Million Tanzanian Shillings or 2 to 10 years imprisonment or both punishments.

### Local Government, Communities and Individuals

Since the fight against human trafficking is a war declared against human kind, then every individual has a role in it. In Tanzania the local government includes the regional office, the district office, downwards to the wards and village office. All these authorities work together with communities and individuals in their localities in curbing human trafficking. According to the National Anti Trafficking in Person Action Plan (2018), human trafficking is addressed through 4Ps that is prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. Different stakeholders play their part in the P's. The local Governments and communities however have a big role when it comes to prevention of the act and protection of the vulnerable victims though this is not clearly stipulated in the National Anti Trafficking in Person Act of 2008 and The National Anti Trafficking in Person Action Plan (2018). Much as the above plans are silent on what should be done by communities and local governments, IOM has provided guidelines which emphasize that local government and CSO's should work together with the Government and community members in identification, rescue, protection and re integration of the victim. This should be done when the stakeholders have been acquired knowledge on how to differentiate victims of human trafficking from other victims.

From the current study it was learnt that different stakeholders including the Government, Non Governmental Organization and community members played a big role in the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of human trafficking. The following section will discuss their involvement in these three actions against the heinous act.

### Rescue of Human trafficking victims

Due to the nature of this atrocious act, neighbours and other community members become very afraid of intervening in issues happening concerning human trafficking. They tend to give a blind eye to the abuse of the victims even when they witness. This was reported during focus group discussions in different places. The respondents reported to be afraid of reporting to the authorities due to the nature of the people involved. They explained that, the people involved in human trafficking most of the time are very powerful people so if they know who reported them they might harm you or your family. The following case from a focus group discussion illustrates this situation;

*"Here in Kaloleni there is a house where the girls are hidden after being taken from the village, the pedophile is known but she continues to traffic girls from Kondoa, Singida to Dar Es Salaam and sometimes to Nairobi. The girls are young from age 7 to 15. The girls are locked in the house, not allowed to move or walk outside the gate. There was a time the locked girls crawled to the gate and screamed for help, the gate was opened by neighbour and six girls were saved from that house. The girls were in a very bad situation, it seems they were not given food to eat, neither were they provided with clothes. They were taken to the hospital and later returned to their parents. Despite this situation, the pedophile seems to continue with her trafficking ways since she is protected by powerful people".*

Lack of confidentiality among leaders in different organizations was also blamed as the cause of the silence. In Meru district participants from a focus group discussion reported;

*"In our street there is a brothel which harbours more than ten girls, we always report to the village leaders but nothing is done. In the beginning I used to report, then one day I received a warning from an unknown person telling me to stop reporting. Since then I knew I had to keep quiet for the sake of protecting my family".*

For the case of domestic helpers, the participants reported that, it was very difficult to rescue the girls since most of the time they work in relatives and neighbour's home. The relatives are the ones who abuse the girls. So it becomes complicated and their hands are tied. They only tend to advise the relatives or neighbours to treat the helper in humanly ways. A case from a focus group in Monduli exemplifies this;

*"My neighbor lives with her niece, in the beginning she told me she will take her to school. But I have never seen the niece go to school; she is always working at home. Her aunty always abuses her physically by whipping, scolding and even burning her. The village officials know the situation but no action have been taken".*

Another case was recalled by FARAJA center when they rescued a young girl from the hands of an abusive aunty;

*"In another case an aunty who was a public servant had taken a girl of 13 years as her niece and domestic helper. She abused the girl, beating her continuously, denying her food. She even locked the girl inside not to meet anyone. The girl escaped through climbing the wall, since at the gate they was a security guard, we rescued the girl, though the lady is free".*

Much as a number of the community members were afraid in rescuing the victims of human trafficking, a number of them were able to help. The respondents reported that they were rescued by friends (10.8%), neighbours (16.8%), and staff from NGO, CSO or Government (2%) and also from faith based organization (3%). A good number of the respondents reported to still be working under the hands of the traffickers (67.8%). This is further shown in table 2.

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**Table 2: Person responsible for rescue of human trafficking victim (n = 400)**

Person who assisted in rescue	Frequency	Percent
A friend	43	10.8
A neighbor or community member	66	16.5
A staff from NGO, CSO or Government	8	2.0
A religious person	12	3.0
Not applicable	271	67.8
Total	400	100.0

Only a few victims (2%), reported to be rescued by officials from government, CSO and non government organizations. When interviewed officials from the social work and police gender desk reported to have rescued only few victims. However, they revealed that whenever they encounter such a case it was always termed as a gender violence case and in very rare occasions it was treated as human trafficking case. Another reason why the authorities have rescued only few victims was the victims running away from the authorities, unless they are badly injured by their bosses. The social worker from Arusha city council reports; *“Many cases of human trafficking are treated as child Labour or gender violence cases, and hence the punishment is given for a child labour or violence case. In 2018 only three cases were reported as Human trafficking cases. Even at the gender desk at the police station the cases are treated as gender violence cases and not human trafficking cases. So it is difficult to identify the cases of human trafficking as it is. Also the victims of human trafficking tend to report that they were not forced to come to work in Arusha but rather they agreed, in this case it becomes gender violence or child labour case”.*

### Rehabilitation of Human trafficking victims

According to Oxford dictionary (2011) the term rehabilitation is defined as the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, abusive condition, addiction, or illness. In case of the current study it is obvious that the victims of human trafficking have passed through a very abusive situation, so before they go back to their normal life they need rehabilitation services in order for them to be in good health condition. As earlier discussed in the above section, the victims have different psychological and physical problems due to different forms of abuse they have encountered. So before anything, they need to be rehabilitated. Table 3 shows some of the services provided to the victims as rehabilitation procedure.

**Table 3: Rehabilitation service provided to victims of human trafficking (n = 400)**

Rehabilitation service	Frequency	Percent
Care and support	38	9.5
Shelter	38	9.5
Counseling services	8	2.0
Legal services	7	1.8
Entrepreneurship skills	30	7.5
Not applicable	279	69.8
Total	400	100.0

From table 3, it is clear that not much is done in case of rehabilitation of the victims of human trafficking. Only 30.2% of the respondents reported to have received some sort of assistance and service from different stakeholders. Nine percent of the respondents reported to receive care and shelter from friends and neighbours while only 2% of the victims reported that they had received counseling services from different non-governmental organization and government organization. Among the non-governmental mentioned to provide counseling and shelter services to the victims included FARAJA and AMANI centre. The rescued victims from different parts of Arusha region were taken to the centres for rehabilitation. However, when the centres were visited they reported that the project of rehabilitating victims of human trafficking have sadly phased out. They are currently engaged into training of the victims different life skills. However the training is not free since the trainee has to pay Tshs. 90,000/= as course and accommodation fee. A case from FARAJA center illustrates this;

*“FARAJA Center was started in 2006 and since then we have rescued and rehabilitated more than 420 young females who were initially victims of human trafficking and other forms of abuse. However since 2015 we are no longer getting funds for these activities (rescue and counseling). As a result we are focused in giving shelter and entrepreneurship skills to the victims of human trafficking and abuse. Shelter is given only when the social worker from the city office provides us with allowances to enable us buy food and some clothes for the victim. The shelter is for a short time; normally it does not proceed two weeks”.*

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When interviewed, social workers from district and ward offices concerning where they take the victims of human trafficking for rehabilitation, they responded that due to shortage of funds they rarely provide rehabilitation services, but they still provide medical care for physical injuries and afterwards the victim is reunited with their family. The social worker from the city council stated this;

*“If a victim from domestic abuse or human trafficking is rescued, The Gender Desk (Police Office OCD) always works with the social welfare office to send the victims to the hospital for medical checkup and thereafter the social welfare find the custody for the victims until the end of the court proceeding. After there the girl or the victim is reunited with the family back home, but sometimes the victims do not want to go home, hence they are taken to centers such as FARAJA for vocational skills”.*

In Monduli district, (Mto wa Mbu ward) it was reported that the organization helping after rescuing the victims of human trafficking and other forms of abuse is DSW. The ward community development officer states;

*“DSW, have been working with Mto wa Mbu ward office in empowering the youth especially young females trafficked to Mto wa Mbu in issues related to their development. It has facilitated different workshops aiming at empowering the victims so that they can have their confidence back before going back to the community. They also provide financial assistance to the victims that enable them to open their small business”.*

### **Reintegration of Human trafficking victims**

Reintegration in simple words means reentry of an individual to the society which was once his or her society. An individual re-enters a society after confinement into jail or a place where he or she was isolated for sometimes. In case of human trafficking; the victims is reintegrated back into their community after being confined by the trafficker or pedophile for some time. According to IOM (2011) Reintegration is described as the process of facilitating the Victim of Trafficking (VoT) safe, dignified and sustainable return back to his or her family, community, or country of origin, and to live a normal life thereafter. It also includes the process of facilitating the VoTs stay in the host country or an alternative country when return is not possible. The aim of reintegration is to foster, nurture and strengthen the rehabilitation process of the victim into his or her community or host community to live a normal life. Accordingly, reintegration assistance may include a full range of services, from temporary shelter in a halfway house or other safe accommodation, to medical care, psychosocial support, and education and eventual return to the country/community of origin. The person or organizations responsible for this process includes the law enforcement organization such as police force, and labour office; social welfare department; immigration department and non-governmental organization.

In the current study, key informant interviews were conducted with the different organizations and from the interviews it was learnt that; only few cases were reported to the authorities. The police office reported to have only three cases for the period of 2017/2018, and only one case in the period of 2018/ 2019. They reported that the cases reported there are normally violence cases and not human trafficking cases. Once the case is reported all procedures are followed but at the end of the case the victim is normally reunited and reintegrated back to their home. For the case of social work office the same was reported. The social officers from Arusha city and district reported to have only few incidences of human trafficking, but a lot of labour disputes incidences. However they reported to reintegrate the victims back into their community.

The process of reintegration of the victims of human trafficking starts immediately after the victim is rescued. According to the social workers, the victims are provided with medical and physical care. During this time the victim is provided with shelter, clothes, food, medical checkups to identify is the victim needs any medical attention. If the victim needs medical attention then it is provided by specialists from different hospitals i.e. Mount Meru Hospital in Arusha for the case of victims from Arusha city. Afterwards the victim is provided with psychosocial service which involves trauma therapy, counseling and advising the victim to gain self-esteem and confidence back. Counseling goes hand in hand with life skill and vocational skills training where the victims are empowered so that they cannot go back to where they came from. They are empowered to avoid being vulnerable again to the pedophiles and traffickers. After some time the victim is now reunited with parents and family. The process of rehabilitation and reintegration was conducted by the law enforcement, social work office with assistance of the Non Governmental organization. FARAJA center and AMANI centre provided a number of services for the rescued victims of human trafficking. They provided shelter, psychosocial counseling and vocational skills to the victims. However, since the projects phased out the social work office can only manage to provide medical care to the victims if needed and immediately reintegrate them to the community. This is due to lack of funds which could facilitate the healing process of the victim. As a result, the victim ends up returning to the trafficker since they feel their communities discriminate them. The social worker emphasizes this in his interview;

*“Before 2015, we used to follow all the procedures to make sure the victims are reintegrated back to their communities. The process after rescuing them involved provision of medical treatment if they had injuries or any health problem, clothes, shelter followed by psycho social treatment. This required a lot of funds and specialists. But it was a good approach since the victims were empowered again and never went back to the trafficking cycle. However things have changed, a lot of steps are not followed after*

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*rescuing the victims, so once returned to their communities they tend to bounce back to the network, it is not once or twice we have met the same victim working in other places, the same person we sent home”.*

Rehabilitation is a very important step after rescuing the victims of human trafficking. Rehabilitation aims at healing and preparing the victim to face the world again after being confined in the trafficking world. Therefore without empowering the victims through provision of counseling and self-esteem sessions the victims will always return to the trafficking cycle. In the current study, a good number of the victims (65.5%) disagreed of the readiness to go back to their communities with the reason that they were afraid of being stigmatized and discriminated. However, the study believes that after being rehabilitated if they had a chance, they would accept into going back. Much as the victims were not ready to go back home, they showed enthusiasm into their future. The victims reported that, once this ordeal was over, they would like to be entrepreneurs and own their own small business. Table 4 shows the kind of activities the victims wish to have once they are reintegrated into their new life.

**Table 4.Type of activity victims prefer doing when reintegrated in the community (n=400)**

Type of activity	Frequency	Percent
Trading	274	68.5
Eatery (mama lishe)	52	13.0
Hair dresser	24	6.0
Farming	7	1.8
Go back to school	43	10.8
Total	400	100.0

From Table 4, it is clearly shown that the majority of victims (68.5%) prefer general trading in markets days that means they could sell a number of stuff in market days. The goods to be sold include cereals and other food stuff, clothes, shoes, school stuff, alcohol, etc. Thirteen percent of the victims also prefer opening their own eateries, while 10.8% of the victims prefer to go back to school to finish their education. It was also clear that only 1.8% of the victims preferred to go back to farming as a way of earning for their income.

### DISCUSSION

Much as these Governmental departments have been working on a daily basis to end this heinous act against humanity the current study showed that the Non Governmental Organisation, ward officers and community members, played a key role in the rescue and assistance of the victims of trafficking. The respondents reported to be rescued by friends (10.8%), neighbours (16.8%), and staff from NGO, CSO or Government (2%) and also from faith based organization (3%). A good number of the respondents reported to still be working under the hands of the traffickers (67.8%). From the focus group discussions it was however revealed that community members were a bit hesitant in rescuing the victims due to several reasons. The reasons mentioned included; fear of powerful pedophiles, corrupt actions by local government, and threats from the victim’s employer. These findings concur with results from other studies; in Mathias (2011) similar findings were reported whereby the victims reported to be rescued by neighbors, friends and other community members. After being rescued the victims remained in the rescuers home and eventually were taken to ward or village offices for further assistance. In other studies by UNODC (2014), neighbors and community members are also reported to rescue victims of human trafficking in Thailand. The neighbors with sensitization and proper information on how to identify a victim of human trafficking can help rescue the victims and thereafter work with other authorities in the rehabilitation process. In contrast to the neighbours and friends for rescue, other studies have shown that the law enforcement officers have succeeded to rescue victims of human trafficking i.e. Police in Niger managed to rescue 232 victims of human trafficking, including 46 under the age of 18, during an INTERPOL-supported operation targeting organized crime groups in West Africa, also in another heist in South and Central America INTERPOL managed to rescue of more than 2,700 victims, 134 arrests and the dismantling of at least seven organized crime networks. This was in between 2017 and 2018 respectively.

After rescue, a few respondents reported to have received different services as means of rehabilitation. Only 30.2% of the respondents reported to have received some sort of assistance and service from different stakeholders. Nine percent of the respondents reported to receive care and shelter from friends and neighbours while only 2% of the victims reported that they had received counseling services from different non-governmental organization and government organization. Among the non-governmental mentioned to provide counseling and shelter services to the victims included FARAJA and AMANI centre. Though only a few of them received these services they agreed that it had helped them recuperate and heal from the trauma they have faced. Similar findings and observation has been mentioned in many studies conducted in Tanzania (Mathias, 2011), Nepal



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(Childreach, 2013) and South Africa (Lutya, 2012). These studies unanimously agree that rehabilitation of victims of trafficking is a key step towards healing. Through educational, economic opportunities as well as extended psycho social care the victims' recovers and might be ready to re unite with their families. Much as rehabilitation is important, this studies and other studies (Mathias, 2011; Kamazima 2009; and IOM, 2011) mention that, they are inadequately provided to the victims, making them vulnerable to the traffickers again after being rescued. In the current study it was observed that there was lack of shelters, lack of medical services and even inadequate vocational training facilities. The victims depended on the Non Governmental Organisation facilities (FARAJA and AMANI centers) which were phasing out these programs. In that case the social welfare officer mentioned lack of facilities, funds and hence they had to stop the rehabilitation program for the rescued victims. The Tanzanian Anti-trafficking Act (2008) stipulates that;

*"Social rehabilitation of rescued victims shall be carried out by social welfare officers for the purpose of re-instating the victim back to into normal way of life and may include provision of legal assistance and material assistance, psychological, medical and professional rehabilitation employment and a dwelling place"* (URT, 2008).

This means that the social welfare officer is in charge of making sure that all rescued victims of human trafficking receive social rehabilitation before being reintegrated back into the community.

Reintegration was the last step towards helping the victim become normal and empowered again. The reintegration of trafficking victims often is a difficult, complex, and long-term process. It is different for each victim, and it involves not only the victim but also the environment and culture within which the reintegration is to take place. Reintegration of the victims to the victims always depends on how ready they are to face reality. That means it depends solely on rescue and rehabilitation process. If the victims recovers well they automatically becomes ready to go back to their family, but sometimes they refuse going back. Apart from the recovery process the victims also fear stigma from the society. The groups fearing stigma might include victims from sexual exploitation who might have contracted HIV/AIDS, and who fell pregnant. In the current study few respondents (34.5%) were willing to go back to their communities while a good number (65.5%) disagreed with the idea of going back to their communities. Reasons for disagreeing to go back to the communities were fear of being stigmatized due to the nature of job they were involved in and also the economic situation of their families. They preferred to remain in urban areas doing different entrepreneurial activities such as hair dressing (6%), eateries (13%), general trading (68%) and farming (2%). Apart from these activities few respondents (11%). also emphasized the need to go back to school to finish their education. Similar cases were reported in different studies conducted in different places worldwide. For example in the study conducted in Nepal by Childreach (2013) it was reported that if the girls are ever freed or even manage to escape, it is extremely difficult for them to return to their families in Nepal because of the stigma attached to their previous work in the sex industry, which often means they are rejected by their families and communities. Many of them therefore return to Nepal and, rather than returning home, they take up work in urban centers as prostitutes where they work as "free agents".

## CONCLUSION

In totality it is clearly evident that the recovery process of the victims of human trafficking is vital in making them whole again. They need to pass through the process of being rescued, rehabilitated and eventually reinstated back into their community. In cases where the victims do not receive proper social rehabilitation services it is easily for them to be trapped back into the trafficking chain. Social rehabilitation might involve education, social skills and entrepreneurship, psycho social services and also legal services. In other instances, some of the victims prefer to go back to school to complete their formal education which was cut short due to human trafficking. Much as these services seem to be crucial for the recovery of the victims, in the current study it was reported that they victims could not receive the said services due to lack of funds for implementing this services.

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