

SANTA MARTA GROUP

CHURCH AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: COMBATTING MODERN SLAVERY

ROME; FEBRUARY 2018

SIERRA LEONE

AT A GLANCE: FEB, 2018



**71,740 Sq Km / 27,698 Sq miles (President
Earnest Bai Koroma)**

- THE 2015 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS RESULT SHOWS THAT SIERRA LEONE HAS A POPULATION OF 7,092,113
- ESTIMATED GDP IS USD 4.4 BILLION
- INFLATION IS AT 9.0%
- PUBLIC DEBT IS 47.2%
- 59.0% of the population lives in Rural Poor Communities
- 41.0% lives in Urban settings
- 1.7 Million age between 20 - 34 years

National Population Versus working population (2015 Population and Housing Census)

- OUR NATIONAL POLICIES ARE ALMOST SILENT ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION, CHALLENGES OF MODERN SLAVERY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

- THE 2005 ANTI- HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT IS BUT AN INTERNATIONAL SOUVERIGN STATE REQUIREMENT
- ITS ENFORCEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE ARE “DISCRETIONAL”

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING; WHAT DOES THE POLICY / LEGAL ENVIRONMENT PROVIDE FOR ?

- SIERRA LEONE IS A VIRGIN TERRITORY FOR TRAFFICKING WITH POROUS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS AND CROSSING POINTS
- ALTHOUGH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES ARE “PROTECTED” BY ABOUT 350 OFFICIAL CROSSING POINTS, IRREGULAR MOVEMENT ACROSS THESE BORDERS COMPROMISINGLY CONTINUES

- HUNDREDS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN CONTINUE TO BE “RECRUITED” AS DOMESTIC WORKERS, MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PROVIDERS BY GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND AGENTS FOR COUNTRIES INCLUDING LYBIA, IRAQ AND KUWAIT
- IN OCT. 2017 50 GIRLS CRIED TO BE REPATRIATED FROM KUWAIT AND 170 FROM LYBIA

SO WHAT?



A CROSSING POINT BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE TO LIBERIA ACROSS THE MOA RIVER

A SAMPLE CROSSING POINT

The *RECOWA / CERAO* Commission for Mission, Pontifical Mission, Apostolate of The Sea, Migrants and Tourism is actively engaged in lobbying and advocating for the approval of the global compacts

- The church is actively engaged in advocacy drive to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking
- A national awareness raising programme on the risks and setbacks on irregular migration and human trafficking

WHAT IS THE CHURCH DOING?

- ABSENCE OF TRAINED CHAPLAINS IN THE APOSTOLATE OF MIGRANTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- NO FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE ROLLING OUT OF MIGRATION REGULATORY POLICIES AT PARISH, DIOCESAN, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS.

CHALLENGES

PREVENTION

- The church should lobby with national governments and social actors to design, promulgate and enforce legislations against human trafficking

RESPONSE

- Episcopal Conferences should create national and diocesan offices for the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking
- Episcopal conferences should mobilise resources, set up and run integration projects to promote inclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PRESENTED BY
DAVID S. YAMBASU

Caritas Sierra Leone

Email:

caritasbo2014@gmail.com

www.caritasbo.org

- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THANK YOU
