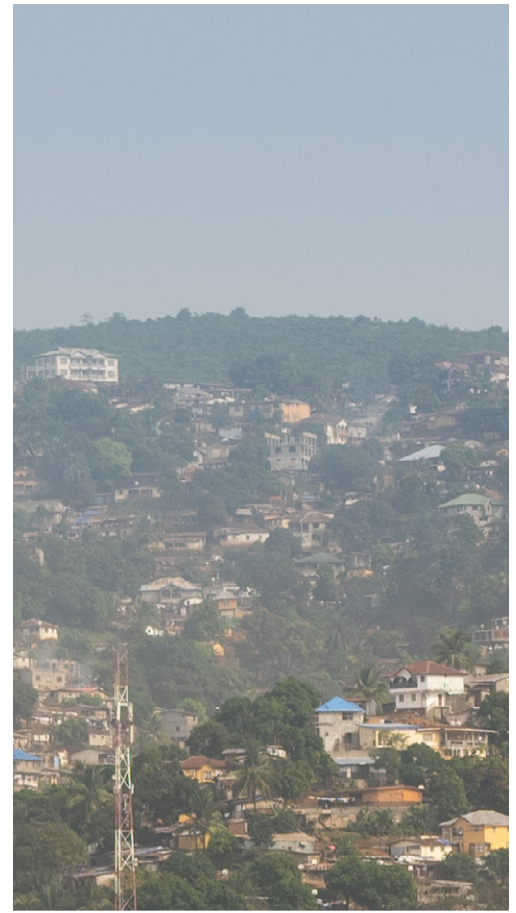# Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach
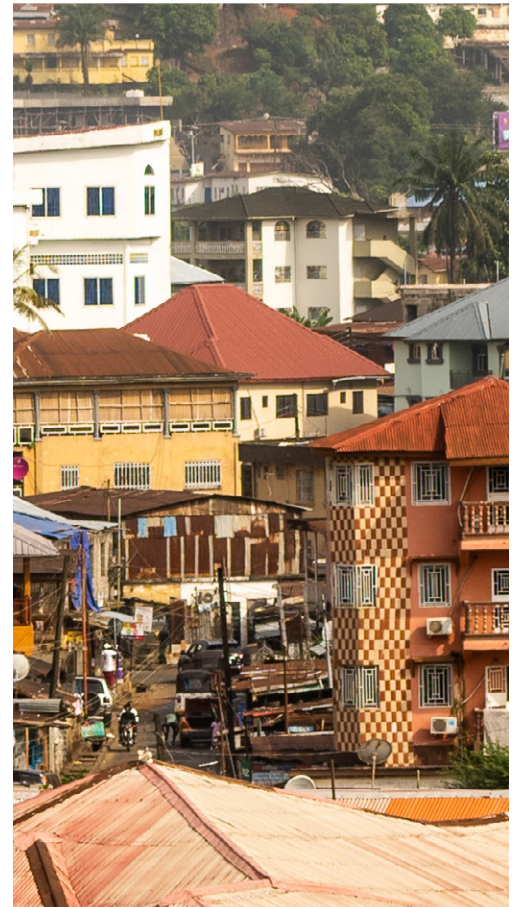
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2022

The Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach (CenHTRO), based at the University of Georgia School of Social Work, is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary, and international research hub in the global effort to combat human trafficking.

CenHTRO conducts research, develops programming, and influences policies that drastically and measurably reduce human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

CenHTRO seeks to address vast gaps in measuring the prevalence of human trafficking worldwide and in implementing evidence-informed interventions. We respond to these disparities by grounding our work in an innovative approach that prioritizes empirical data and values input from survivors of human trafficking.

#ENDHUMANTRAFFICKING

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Human trafficking is a global scourge that clutches millions of people in its grasp. It affects every country, with devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities. The scope of this issue is clearly dire, but I am not without hope.

At the University of Georgia's Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, we rise every day to meet this challenge, encouraged by the mission we have set forth—to reduce human trafficking through research, programs, and policies. This annual impact report abounds with evidence of our efforts to meet our mission through collective efforts with researchers, governments, survivors, community leaders, and non-government actors.

In 2022, we published three baseline reports: on child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor in Sierra Leone; on severe sex trafficking in the gold mining communities of Kédougou, Senegal; and on child trafficking in Guinea. Governments, community groups, and service-providing agencies have all received this research to help in their own efforts. With our assistance, victims of human trafficking have received much needed care and services.

"I often say that good intentions alone are not enough. Producing accurate and reliable data is the best way to transform our intentions into effective programs for survivors and victims."

Survivors have been reunited with their families. We've also begun to expand our scope by strengthening cross-border institutional collaboration in the West African region, and planning new research and programs on labor trafficking in Malawi and Zambia.

CenHTRO is making an impact that, I will reiterate, is underpinned by rigorous science. We count ourselves among elite global organizations dedicated to advancing and standardizing human trafficking research. Our projects in six countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, featuring the world's preeminent prevalence estimation researchers, are improving the science of how we measure and understand human trafficking in its various international contexts.

In Georgia, we're producing impact as well, from funding projects that will improve outcomes for survivors to training the next generation of researchers and program specialists.

Our team members also serve on various local, national, and international boards and committees on human trafficking.

This progress, I must note, is attained only through the principle of collaboration and the spirit of partnership. With that in mind, I must offer deep thanks to our funder, the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

We must continue to assemble all sectors of society—from the village to the boardroom—to combat this scourge. This includes you! Your involvement is necessary if we are to end human trafficking. Only by working together can we achieve such a necessary goal.

Thank you,

David Okech

The **African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES)** is an international project of CenHTRO, in partnership with the University of Liverpool, that works to reduce the prevalence of modern slavery in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by transforming the capacity of community-engaged agencies to implement prevention, prosecution, and protection strategies. Funded by the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, our current engagements are in Sierra Leone and Senegal.

Although our implementation efforts in Guinea stopped in 2021, APRIES completed baseline research there in 2022. With new funding announced late in 2022, APRIES has begun a project to research and combat labor trafficking from Malawi and Zambia into South Africa.

The following pages outline the research, programming, policy, and partnership successes achieved by APRIES in 2022.
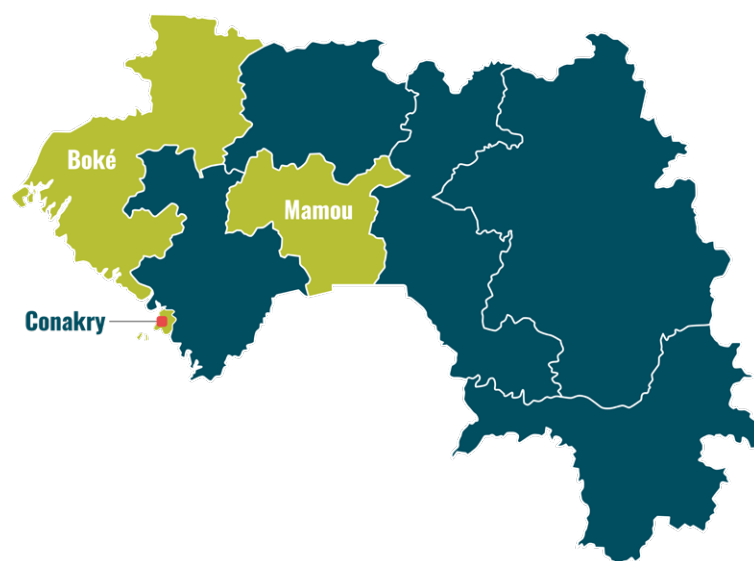
RESEARCH

In 2022, APRIES completed and disseminated three baseline reports on human trafficking in Guinea, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. In addition to supplementary reports on policy recommendations, these documents helped guide anti-trafficking programs and policy advocacy in each of the project countries. CenHTRO/APRIES faculty— David Okech, Alex Balch, Tamora Callands, Jody Clay-Warner, Nate Hansen—played key roles in the creation of the reports, which were prepared with local research partners— ResilientAfrica Network and Stat View International (Guinea), Mantle (Senegal), and CMDA (Sierra Leone). APRIES Assistant Research Scientists Anna Cody (qualitative) and Hui Yi (quantitative) were essential to the production of these reports. APRIES Policy Officer Helen Bryant developed policy recommendations. CenHTRO Assistant Director Claire Bolton plays an integral role in organizing APRIES projects through all phases.

GUINEA

"Child Trafficking and Child Labor in Guinea: A Mixed-Methods Study Estimating Prevalence and Exploring Stakeholder Perspectives about Response and Prevention"
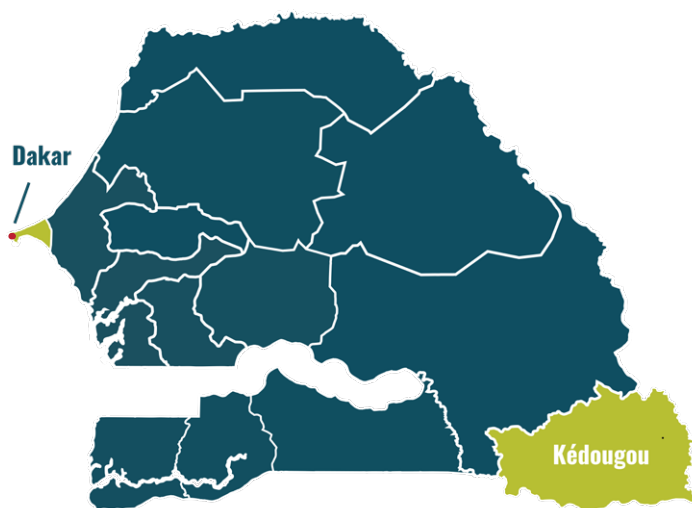
The study aimed to describe the nature of child trafficking as well as the service and policy gaps in addressing child trafficking in Guinea and estimate the prevalence of child trafficking in two regions of Guinea (Boké and Mamou) using both direct estimation and the Network Scale-up Method (NSUM). Download the report here.

SENEGAL

"Sex Trafficking in the Gold Mining Areas of Kédougou, Senegal: A Mixed-Methods Study Estimating Baseline Prevalence and Identifying Perceived Gaps in Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection Response"

The study aimed to estimate the prevalence of severe forms of sex trafficking among women engaged in commercial sex aged 18-30. Secondarily, the research assessed perceived service and policy gaps to inform interventions. Download the report here.

"New Evidence on Sex Trafficking in the Gold Mining Areas of Kédougou, Senegal: Implications for Policy"
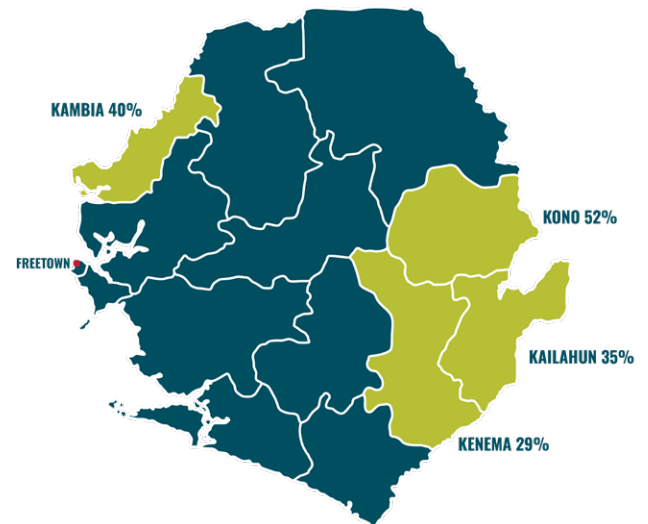
A policy brief outlining key findings from baseline research and the implications for efforts to address the harms and injustices relating to severe sex trafficking and giving voice to victims, survivors, as well as girls and women engaged in commercial sex, who had an unprecedented opportunity to speak out on several issues that affect them. Download the report here.

SIERRA LEONE

"Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Sierra Leone: A Mixed Methods Study Establishing Baseline Prevalence, Understanding Stakeholder Perspectives, and Identifying Gaps in Policies and Services to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking"

The study aimed to describe the nature of the child trafficking problem as well as the service and policy gaps in addressing child trafficking in Sierra Leone and estimate baseline prevalence of child trafficking in Eastern Province hotspots—Kailahun, Kenema, and Kono—using both direct estimation and the Network Scale-up Method (NSUM). Download the report here.

"New Research on Child Trafficking and Child Labor: Recommendations for Policy"

A policy brief making recommendations for addressing local forms of child trafficking and child labor injustices and indicating that prevention and protection should be prioritized in order to reduce trafficking risks and harms. Download the report here.

KAMBIA 40%

FREETOWN

KONO 52%

KAILAHUN 35%

KENEMA 29%

SENEGAL

In Senegal, APRIES works to combat severe sex trafficking of girls and young women in Kédougou, a gold mining region in southeast Senegal that borders Mali and Guinea. Nnenne Onyioha-Clayton serves as program manager, Aminata Diagne Barre as country coordinator, and Gabriel Varig Manga as project officer. Our partners are Free the Slaves for prevention and protection programs and the United Nations on Drugs and Crime for prosecution programs. Survivors received services and support through shelter partner La Lumière. In 2022, the Senegal program celebrates the following highlights.

Hosted National Launch of Programs

Gathering national and regional stakeholders in Dakar, Senegal, APRIES held an official launch of programs with implementing partners the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Free the Slaves alongside national and regional stakeholders on April 21, 2022.

Established and Trained Community-Level Anti-TIP Groups

Our Prevention and Protection partners Free the Slaves established and trained 13 Community Vigilance Committees, who were involved in the removal of survivors from trafficking situations and facilitated community sensitization campaigns.

Built Capacity of Shelter Partners

Free the Slaves delivered capacity-building training to two shelter partners in Kédougou.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Provided Care to Survivors of Severe Sex Trafficking

Through partner Free the Slaves, we helped coordinate trauma-informed, gender-sensitive care to TIP survivors, encompassing medical, psychosocial, and other services.

Trained Media on Severe Sex Trafficking Reporting

Free the Slaves delivered capacity building trainings for 10 media personnel to effectively report on cases of sex trafficking.

Assessed Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons

UNODC, our prosecution partners, conducted a preliminary assessment on the judicial system and the criminal justice response to TIP in Kédougou.
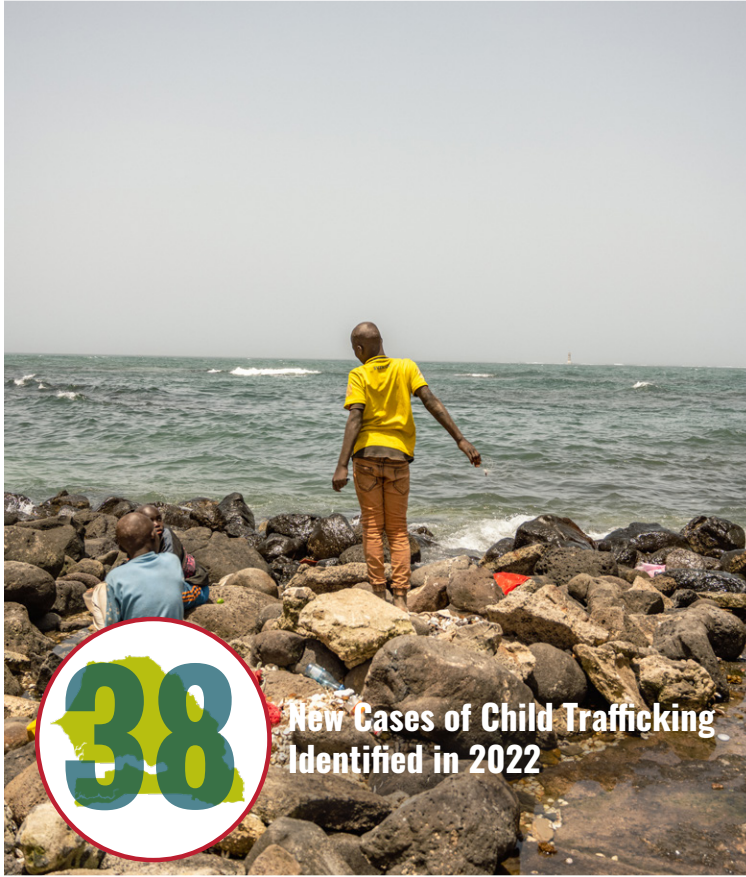

Conducted Workshops for Local Stakeholders

UNODC conducted a training workshop for local actors in Kédougou, including police, magistrates, and NGOs, on the referral mechanism for the assistance of victims of trafficking.
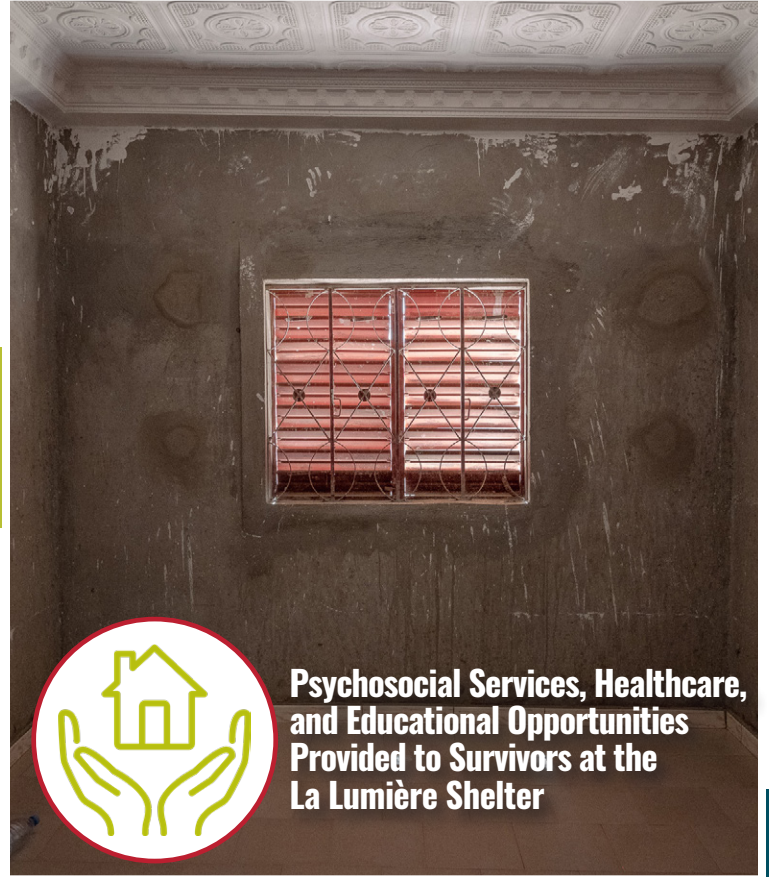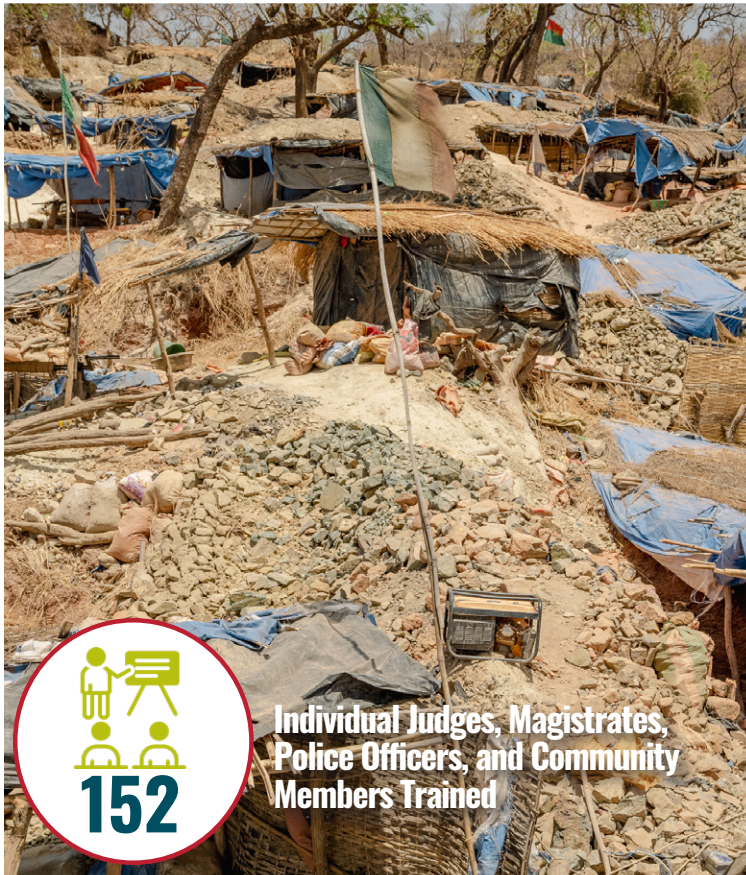
2022 IMPACT

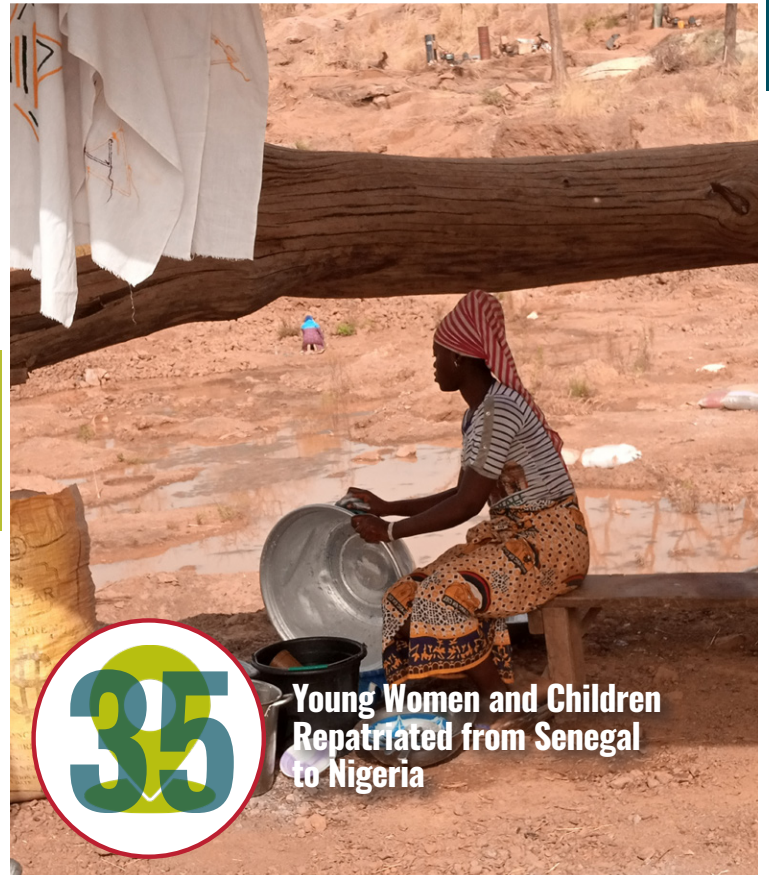**38** New Cases of Child Trafficking Identified in 2022

Psychosocial Services, Healthcare, and Educational Opportunities Provided to Survivors at the La Lumière Shelter

152 Individual Judges, Magistrates, Police Officers, and Community Members Trained

35 Young Women and Children Repatriated from Senegal to Nigeria

A SURVIVOR STORY

A 17-year-old Nigerian girl had dropped out of school to look for work. In 2021, she met a woman who offered her a job as a gas station attendant in Dubai. The woman organized the trip and paid all costs. But a bus the girl boarded took her instead to a village in Kédougou, Senegal, near the Malian border, where she was greeted by the manager of a bar, who informed her that she had to pay back the travel expenses. Desperate and lost, the girl had no choice but to engage in forced prostitution to recover the debt. She didn't know of anyone who could help her. If she ran away, she feared retribution from the madam (how survivors refer to their traffickers).

While visiting village bars to identify potential victims of severe sex trafficking, members of CenHTRO's anti-trafficking network in Kédougou took note of the 17-year-old. Our shelter partner in the region, La Lumière, visited the girl, who refused to speak and appeared afraid and anxious.

In August 2022, La Lumière, Free the Slaves, and a police officer met with community leaders to raise awareness about severe sex trafficking around Kédougou's gold mining sites. While in the area, CenHTRO's partners assisted in removing the girl from the trafficking situation but were not able to locate the madam.

At La Lumière's recovery shelter, the survivor received care and assistance, and her return home to Nigeria was planned. Once home, the survivor said she plans to return to school and study law.

SIERRALEONE

In Sierra Leone, APRIES works to combat child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor in four provinces: Kambia, Kailahun, Kenema, and Kono. Aicha Traore serves as the program manager and Umaru Fofanah is the country coordinator. Our partners are World Hope International (WHI) and Antobert Consultancy for prevention and protection programs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for prosecution programs. Survivors receive services and support at World Hope International's Recovery Centre in Freetown, the only shelter of its kind in the country. In 2022, the Sierra Leone program celebrates the following highlights.

Coordinated National Anti-TIP Stakeholder Conference

APRIES worked collaboratively with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare to plan and host Sierra Leone's National Stakeholder Conference in February 2022, gathering key local and regional anti-TIP actors to build stronger partnerships among anti-human trafficking stakeholders in Sierra Leone. The President of Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio, delivered the keynote speech and unveiled a dedicated anti-trafficking hotline with a toll-free number.

Helped Pass new Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Bill

APRIES collaborated with the Ministry of Social Welfare and provided extensive contributions in the review of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling bill before its introduction to Sierra Leone's parliament, the Bill was enacted by the Parliament in April 2022.

Raised Public Awareness about New TIP Bill

Following the passing of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling bill, our Sierra Leone team established an implementation committee for the rollout and public education of the new act.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Launched Prosecution Project with UNODC

With the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, we began a prosecution project in June 2022. The project aims to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers and criminal justice practitioners to investigate cases of human trafficking and prosecute perpetrators, resulting in a reduction of child trafficking in the hotspot districts of Kenema, Kailahun, Kambia, and Kono.

Initiated Advocacy Project with Antobert Consultancy

In October 2022, we started an advocacy project targeting elected members of parliament and civil/public servants with the aim to further the Anti-TIP Bill while promoting the inclusion of constituents' perspectives into policy making and implementation activities in Sierra Leone.

Harmonized Community-Level Bylaws to Address Human Trafficking

Working with community leaders and local governments, district level bylaws in Sierra Leone's hotspot districts (Kenema, Kailahun, Kono) were developed and harmonized with the National Anti-Human Trafficking Act through the community awareness and policy implementation project carried out by World Hope International.

Trained Social Workers and Caregivers in Trauma-Informed Care

Through the survivor protective services and judicial support project implemented by World Hope International, numerous district-level social workers, and community caregivers in the 4 hotspot districts of Sierra Leone were trained in trauma-informed care, in an effort to strengthen their capability to aid child trafficking survivors through supportive supervision and mentoring.
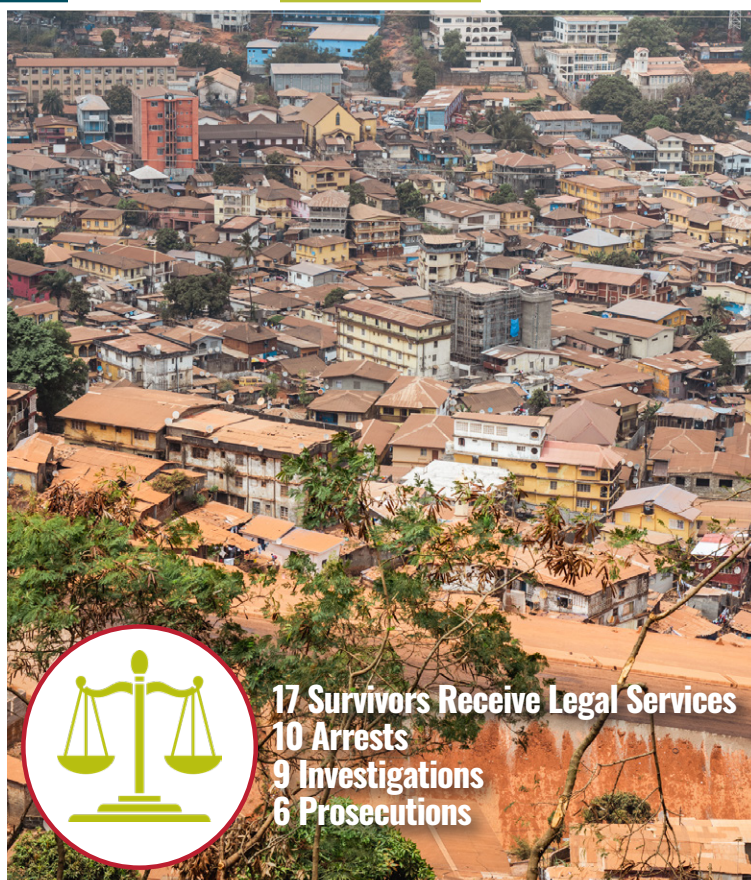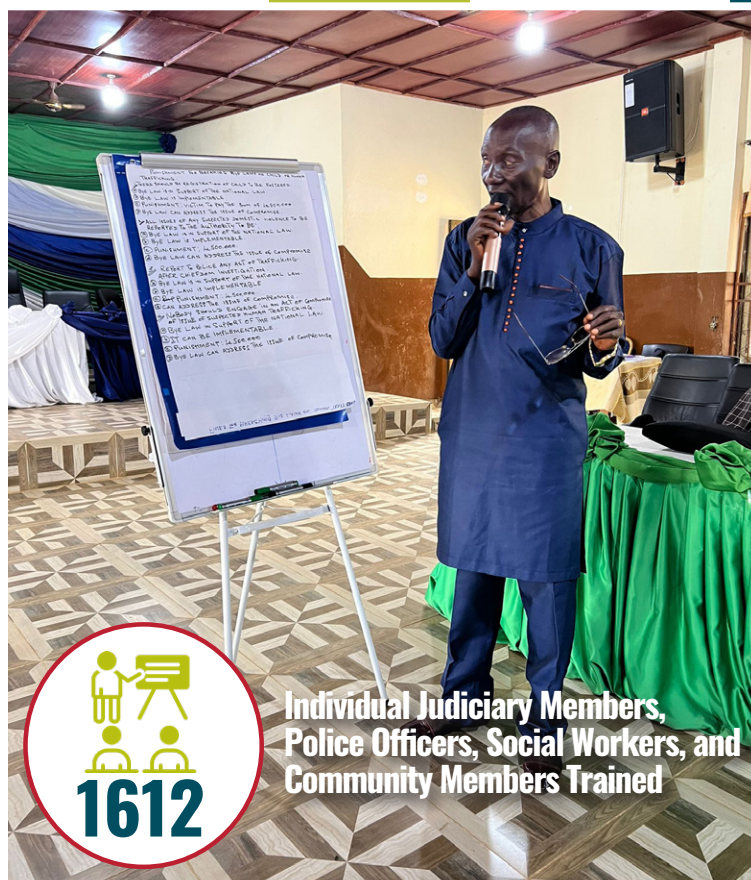
2022 IMPACT

23 New Cases of Child Trafficking Identified in 2022

Psychosocial Services, Healthcare, and Educational Opportunities Provided to Survivors at the WHI Recovery Centre

17 Survivors Receive Legal Services
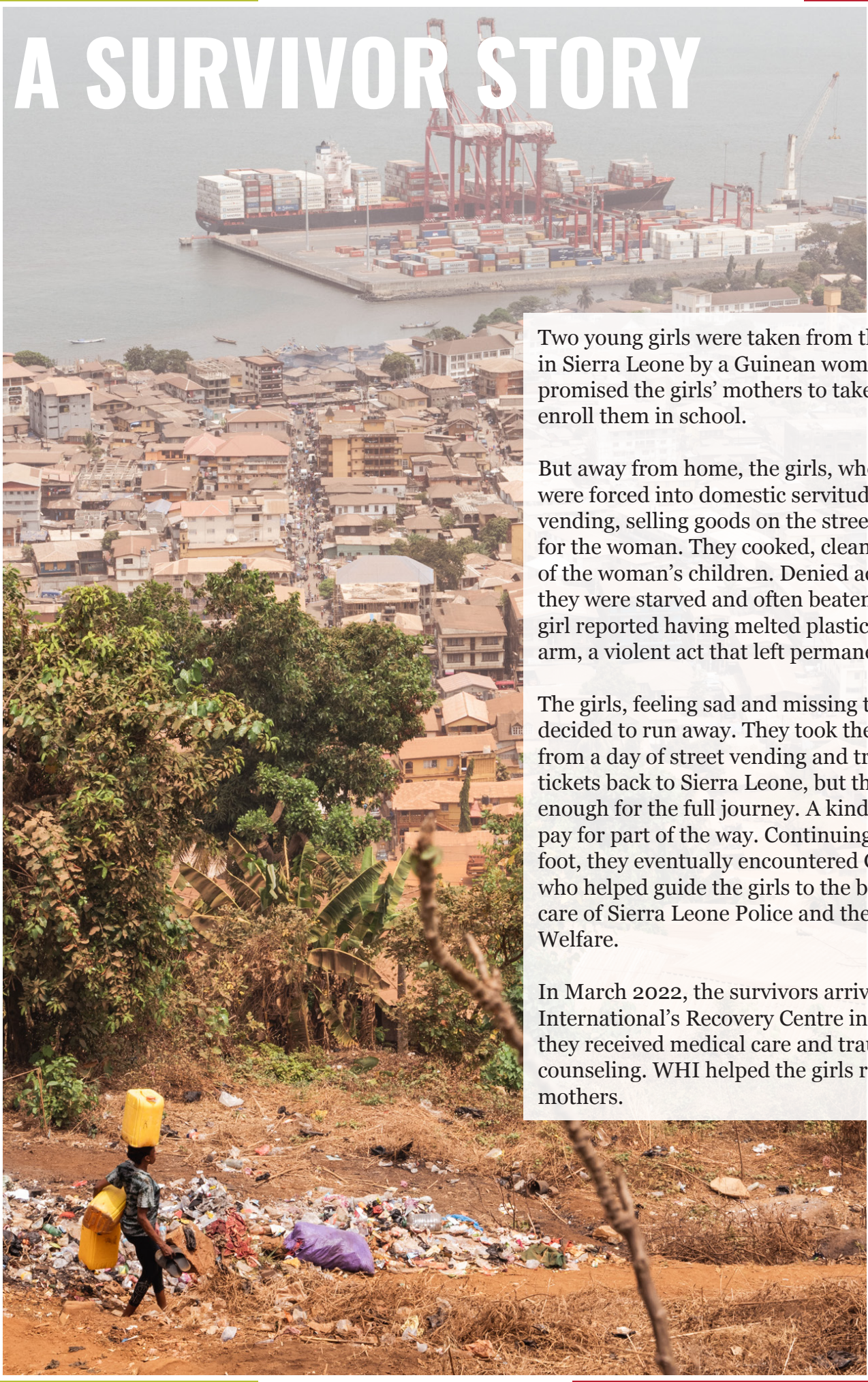10 Arrests
9 Investigations
6 Prosecutions

1612 Individual Judiciary Members, Police Officers, Social Workers, and Community Members Trained

A SURVIVOR STORY

Two young girls were taken from their homes in Sierra Leone by a Guinean woman, who had promised the girls' mothers to take care of them and enroll them in school.

But away from home, the girls, who are not related, were forced into domestic servitude and street vending, selling goods on the street to make money for the woman. They cooked, cleaned, and took care of the woman's children. Denied access to education, they were starved and often beaten for mistakes. One girl reported having melted plastic poured over her arm, a violent act that left permanent scars.

The girls, feeling sad and missing their mothers, decided to run away. They took the money they made from a day of street vending and tried to buy bus tickets back to Sierra Leone, but they didn't have enough for the full journey. A kind stranger helped pay for part of the way. Continuing their journey by foot, they eventually encountered Guinean police, who helped guide the girls to the border and into the care of Sierra Leone Police and the Ministry of Social Welfare.

In March 2022, the survivors arrived at World Hope International's Recovery Centre in Freetown, where they received medical care and trauma-informed counseling. WHI helped the girls reunite with their mothers.

West African Regional Collaboration

In 2022, APRIES fostered relationships with regional anti-trafficking institutions in West Africa, aiming to strengthen and standardize how national governments respond to human trafficking.

Working with a regional anti-trafficking team, Policy Officer Sheri Randazzo and ECOWAS Officer Ansoumane Bangoura identified engagement opportunities to assist decision-makers in developing and reinforcing anti-TIP strategies.

In the past year, the team began reviewing existing regional human trafficking protocols and coordinating with international organizations to better understand current anti-trafficking training methods and practices.

In the coming year, APRIES will assess how TIP data collection mechanisms are coordinated across the region and design standardized criminal statistic data forms that can offer guidance to institutional efforts to reduce trafficking prevalence.

Increasing the Financial Capability of Vulnerable Populations to Prevent Cross-border Labor Trafficking into South Africa

With $2.2 million in new funding from the U.S. Department of State Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, CenHTRO expands its APRIES initiative into two new countries in Southern Africa: Malawi and Zambia. In the first phase of a two-stage project, research will assess the prevalence of labor trafficking of at-risk youth and young adults. Data produced in phase one will inform a second phase that includes interventions that aim to increase access to financial services and improve the digital financial literacy of survivors and populations at risk of experiencing labor trafficking. The project introduces two new faculty members to the CenHTRO/APRIES team: Laura Zimmermann, associate professor in the Terry College of Business and the School of Public and International Affairs, and Mary Ager, associate professor in the School of Social Work. Read more here.

West Africa Think Tanks

In both Senegal and Sierra Leone, CenHTRO/APRIES operates think tanks composed of respected and accomplished experts in research, policy, and programming. They add nuanced perspectives that enhance and add critical relevance to APRIES' anti-trafficking projects.

They serve as our eyes and ears and increase the sustainability of our work. Think tank members appear on national television, on radio, speak publicly at community events, and advocate for anti-trafficking measures with prominent leaders.

Sierra Leone: Sia Lajaku-Williams, Reuben Lewis, and Haja Wurie

Senegal: Fulbert Dioh, Khardiata Ndoye, Sadikh Niass, and Cheikh Sadibou Sakho.

In 2022, Sierra Leone Think Tank member Haja Wurie published "All Hands on Deck: Combating Human Trafficking in Sierra Leone Requires Top-Down and Bottom-Up Strategies."

Senegal's Think Tank collectively wrote "Child Sex Trafficking in Senegal: Dimensions, Effects, and Solutions," which was reprinted in multiple newspapers.

Increasing Reporting on Human Trafficking in Sierra Leone

CenHTRO/APRIES began a partnership with the Journalism Centre on Global Trafficking (JCOGT) to increase evidenced-based reporting on human trafficking, especially child trafficking, in Sierra Leone's national and community print, audio, and broadcast media. The program will help journalists understand the context, concepts, and terminology behind trafficking. Participants will learn to conduct trauma-informed interviews with survivors, and produce fact-based stories on trafficking prevalence in the region. CenHTRO will provide topical expertise and technical assistance to the programs. Read more here.

OUR AIMS

Enhance The Science Of Human Trafficking Prevalence Measurement Across The World

Implement Policies & Programs That Protect Victims, Prevent Trafficking, Strengthen Prosecution, & Enhance Partnership

Equip The Next Generation of Human Trafficking Researchers With Competencies That Can Enhance Social Justice For Trafficking Survivors and Victims

PRIF

COSTA RICA

BRAZIL

MOROCCO

TUNISIA

TANZANIA

PAKISTAN

The **Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum** (PRIF) is a CenHTRO initiative that seeks to improve the science of human trafficking prevalence estimation. PRIF currently supports seven research institutions that are actively testing multiple prevalence estimation methods in trafficking hotspots around the world—Brazil, Costa Rica, Morocco, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

Each project focuses on a distinct type of trafficking in a particular industry, and each team employs and evaluates at least two survey methods. Those methods include, but are not limited to, Network Scale-Up Method (NSUM), Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS), and probability-proportional-to-size (PPS) sampling. Results from the projects will analyze the cost effectiveness of each approach as well as the dimensions of heterogeneity that make one approach better in a given context.

"A single estimation method may not be the most effective at capturing all types of trafficking in all contexts, so comparing and evaluating each of these methods in a given population is an important characteristic of this initiative," said CenHTRO Associate Director and PRIF Coordinator Lydia Aletraris.

The PRIF initiative has already developed standard defintions and 39 indicators of human trafficking, and identified 12 core indicators. For each indicator, survey questions have been developed and currently inform PRIF projects.

In 2023, CenHTRO and the University of Georgia will host a conference for the PRIF teams and relevant stakeholders to present findings, review the indicators and meta-analysis, and plan future actions to expand the program's impact.

BRAZIL

Estimating the Prevalence of Sex Trafficking of Children in Urban Brazil

Working in the area around Recife, in the northeastern part of the country, the Freedom Fund team of Yuki Lo, Ana Brito, and Carl Kendall completed research on the commercial sexual exploitation of girls (17 and under) using a random digit dialing phone survey for an NSUM estimate and an RDS survey with female sex workers aged 18-21.

Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Brazilian Agriculture

Researching forced labor in the agricultural industry in the state of Maranhao, Bahia, Piaui, and Tocantins, a team from Stanford University that includes Grant Miller, Kimberly Babiarz, Jesse Brunner, and Victoria Ward, continued to prepare to launch data collection using probability-proportional-to-size and GNSUM ("game of contacts") methods.

COSTA RICA

Estimating the Prevalence of Forced Labor in the Fishing Industry in Costa Rica

A team from New York University—Meredith Dank, Sheldon Zhang, and Kyle Vincent—is employing NSUM, PPS, and Vincent Link Tracingampling (VLTS), a form of multi-wave snowball sampling) to study forced labor in Costa Rica's fishing sector, working with a local team from the International Office for Migration. In 2022, the team met with key stakeholders from local, national, and international offices, and conducted prevalence research using the three approaches.

MOROCCO

Estimating the Prevalence of Forced Labor Among Domestic Workers in Morocco

Focusing on adult female domestic workers and child domestic workers aged 16-18 in Casablanca, a team from NORC at the University of Chicago—Clifford Zinnes and Kareem Kysia—are incorporating NSUM, adaptive Time-Location Sampling (TLS), and RDS in their research. They completed a visual mapping of municipalities where domestic workers are available at public venues, built a roster of all public venues through which domestic workers are likely to pass through, and conducted field observations in identified venues. The team also recruited female enumerators and began the main data collection.

PAKISTAN

Estimating the Prevalence of Forced Labor in the Brick Kiln Industry in Pakistan

Employing PPS and RDS in addition to NSUM, a team led by Johns Hopkins University—Courtland Robinson, Abdul Bachani, Andrea Wirtz, and Nukhba Zia—is researching forced labor in the brick kiln industry in Sindh, Pakistan. In 2022, qualitative data collection and quantitative field-testing were completed. A field implementation plan was finalized and the field team was hired and trained. However, the unprecedented rains and devastating floods delayed field implementation by at least a few weeks and possibly months. Working through our research partners at John Hopkins University and Aga Khan University in Pakistan, CenHTRO contributed $10,000 to relief efforts.

TANZANIA

Estimating the Prevalence of Domestic Servitude among Tanzanian Migrant Domestic Workers

A team from New York University led by Meredith Dank, and including Sheldon Zhang and Kyle Vincent, is estimating forced labor among individuals who traveled abroad to engage in domestic work at three study sites in Tanzania—Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and Iringa—using NSUM, PPS, and VLTS methodologies. In 2022, the team completed household mapping, generating the most comprehensive data set to date on where Tanzanians who have worked abroad as domestic workers currently reside. PPS data collection began in August.

TUNISIA

Estimating the Prevalence of Domestic Servitude in Tunisia

Researching domestic servitude in Tunis using TLS, NSUM, and mark-recapture methods, a team from the University of Massachusetts led by Sheldon Zhang and including Meredith Dank and Kyle Vincent concluded all survey phases and began drafting a final report. For the TLS method, the team mapped out 356 geographical locations in the Tunis metro area where domestic servants are likely to transit on their way to and from work or congregate for social or daily activities.

META-ANALYSIS

As part of PRIF, WZB Berlin Social Science Center is conducting a meta-analysis that will assess the robustness of study designs, specifically sampling and estimation strategies, based on simulated and real data coming from the PRIF studies. The framework allows for the estimation of the relative performance of study designs given the contextual features of specific studies and data collected by PRIF teams. In 2022, the WZB team finalized the implementation of estimation procedures and continued working on a pre-analysis that will serve as the basis for a working paper based on the meta-analysis that will be conducted after teams have finished their data collection.

The WZB team developed an easily-accessible and user-friendly hiddenmeta R package. They also conducted simulation studies using the package to diagnose how contextual and design features of the individual studies might address the ability to recover relative biases of sampling-estimation strategies. The code for the Bayesian model and simulations is publicly available as part of the R package that the team published on GitHub and that other researchers can use.

Standardized Tools for Measuring Trafficking in Persons

Finalized in 2022, CenHTRO will partner with three United Nations agencies—the International Labor Organization (ILO), UNODC, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—as a sub-awardee of a $2 million grant from the U.S. Department of State to develop methodologies and uniform guidance for the measurement of trafficking in persons. David Okech and Lydia Aletraris will serve as co-principal investigators from the University of Georgia and will ensure synergies between UN agency work and academia, contributing to harmonizing national and international approaches to the human trafficking prevalence measurement. In a key activity, CenHTRO will organize international workshops with experts and key anti-trafficking stakeholders, including survivors.

Virtual Symposium for Georgia-Based Human Trafficking Researchers

In April 2022, CenHTRO virtually hosted the first-ever Georgia Human Trafficking Research Symposium. The inaugural event provided a space for connection and collaboration between experts from across Georgia who are researching various populations and phenomena regarding the issue of trafficking in persons. We reiterated our objective to assist, support, encourage, and facilitate the continuation of research on this issue across local, state, national, and international levels. Nearly twenty researchers representing various academic institutions and research bodies joined the symposium. Emory University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, and the University of Georgia were all represented. The event was organized by Schroeder and Graduate Research Assistant Hope Dockweiler. Read more.

Predoctoral Fellow Receives Fulbright Award

Elyssa Schroeder, a CenHTRO predoctoral fellow, is the recipient of a 2022 Fulbright Research Grant. The award enables the School of Social Work doctoral candidate to further her dissertation research on improving outcomes for survivors of child labor trafficking in Sierra Leone. Schroeder will use the Fulbright to live in Sierra Leone and conduct community-based research with World Hope International (WHI), a nonprofit operating the only shelter for trafficking survivors in the West African country. Read more.

Trauma-Informed Work with Native Trafficking Survivors

Through a $20,000 CenHTRO seed grant, Kate Morrissey Stahl, a clinical associate professor in the University of Georgia School of Social Work, is leading a research team examining the impacts of sex trafficking on Native youth populations in South Dakota, with a goal of creating better understanding, and hopefully refining, the process for interviewing Native youth sex trafficking survivors. Throughout 2022, Stahl and research partners Bridget Diamond-Welch and Anna Koloski designed the study, aiming to begin interviews in 2023. Read more.

Comprehensive Training Protocol for Stakeholders Serving Trafficked Youth

With a $20,000 CenHTRO Seed Grant, University of Georgia School of Social Work Associate Professor Allison Dunnigan began providing support in 2022 to Georgia-based stakeholders responding to domestic minor human trafficking (DMST) and the commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Alongside UGA faculty Emma Hetherington (Law), Rachel Fusco (Social Work), and Jennifer Elkins (Social Work), the project aims to develop a human trafficking toolkit for Georgia jurisdictions and offer ongoing support to courts and law enforcement for human trafficking cases. Read more.

Freedom From Slavery Forum: Rwanda

In November 2022, CenHTRO traveled to Kigali, Rwanda for the Freedom from Slavery Regional African Forum, organized by Free the Slaves. The team consisted of Director David Okech, Sierra Leone Program Manager Aicha Traore, Sierra Leone Country Coordinator Umaru Fofanah, and Graduate Research Assistant Hope Dockweiler. In Rwanda, CenHTRO presented case studies, analysis, and lessons learned from our research and programs to combat child trafficking in Sierra Leone. Free the Slaves, an international NGO that is one of CenHTRO's implementing partners in countering severe sex trafficking in Senegal, organized the conference. Proceedings focused on increasing survivor involvement in the global movement to end human trafficking in meaningful, impactful, and ethical ways. Read more.

Storytelling Sierra Leone's Insecurity

In September 2022, CenHTRO partnered with UGA's Willson Center for Humanities & Arts to host a screening of two short documentaries about human trafficking in Sierra Leone by internationally-recognized filmmaker Barmmy Boy. The films, screened to a standing-room only audience at Ciné, a theater in downtown Athens, Georgia, depicted a clear-eyed portrayal of life in Sierra Leone and the vulnerabilities that can lead to situations of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

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Serving Humanity Through Research

Changing lives takes time, care, and commitment.

From understanding the needs of survivors to nurtuting partnerships across cultures, CenHTRO knows that a patient and sustainable approach leads to global impact.

We can end human trafficking.

Together.

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