



2021 MOMBASA, KENYA REPORT

Prepared for The High Metabolic Clinic

Combating child sex trafficking in Kenya

Thank you for your deep commitment to the protection of children who are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) in Mombasa, Kenya. After launching our program to combat CSEC on Kenya's coast at the end of 2020, in the past year you have helped us lay the groundwork necessary to strengthen the Kenyan government's capacity to investigate and prosecute CSEC crimes in three counties. We engaged survivors and raised awareness to increase reporting, forged new relationships with local NGO and government partners, and alongside those partners we even secured our first arrest of a man who sexually abused a young girl and had evaded arrest for five months.

These interventions signify the growing momentum in the fight against CSEC and they were truly made possible with your support. We are so grateful to stand alongside you at this pivotal moment in history.

Breaking News:

First Arrest in IJM CSEC Project in Kenya

March 22, 2022

After five months of evading arrest, local police working with the Department of Children Services at the Kenyan coast recently secured the arrest of a man for sexually abusing and exploiting Saida* after luring her into a villa with a promise of assisting her with school fees. The suspect, who members of the community described as untouchable due to his deep pockets, political connections and influence, remained free for months after Saida reported the abuse to the police. The Justice Center would make follow-ups on her case, but the police did not take any action. On March 22, 2022, the suspect was arrested, and the following day he was charged. He has been charged under the Sexual Offences Act, and faces up to 15 years in prison, if convicted.

To ensure victims like Saida are able to safely and successfully report cases to the police, IJM has been building the capacity of community stakeholders to address challenges in CSEC case referral and reporting. With support from IJM in February, the Community Justice Center, that Saida initially visited to report the case, was able to finally prompt police to take action in Saida's case.

Going forward, IJM will ensure Saida receives counselling to help her on her journey of healing, as well as the legal support victims like her need to be able to navigate the prosecution of her abuser. IJM will also support the public prosecutor, one of several throughout the region who will benefit from IJM's effort to strengthen the capacity of prosecutors in pursuing convictions against Child Sex Trafficking perpetrators.

While Saida awaits justice through the prosecution of her perpetrator, his arrest and detention send an important message of accountability to other criminals engaging as customers and facilitators of CSEC. You are helping Saida and many others like her to get the justice she deserves.

**A pseudonym*

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

IJM Mombasa partners with local justice centers to support CSEC survivors

The first Justice Center to partner with IJM Mombasa was Sisters for Justice (S4J), an all-women organization led by 31-year-old Naila Abdalla Mohamed (pictured right), whose vision is to empower and promote women and children's rights. Naila and her colleagues work with women and girls who are victims of sexual violence and those who have experienced domestic violence to assist them in seeking and receiving treatment, in finding safe housing and in reporting their attackers to the police.

"These issues are personal to me. When I see girls and women suffering in silence, it hurts me, and I do everything possible for them to get justice," Naila says. She says she has observed an increase in these cases of violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IJM is supporting the justice center in various ways, including psychosocial support and sensitizing communities on the need for reporting and combating sexual exploitation of children.

"IJM is a valued partner and we appreciate what they are doing in the communities," Naila says. "We are very fortunate and excited to work alongside the team in Mombasa alongside other organizations."



IJM aftercare team helps survivor deliver strong testimony in court

The abuser of a young girl in Kenya was given a life sentence after she powerfully shared her testimony against him in court. Cindy* was just nine years old when her neighbour took advantage of her disability to sexually abuse her. He thought he wouldn't get caught because of her struggles to communicate, but he did not account for the diligent help of the IJM aftercare team, the support of her grandmother and Cindy's own bravery.

IJM learned of Cindy's case after the trial was already underway in court, and the prosecution was struggling to secure a testimony from her. IJM stepped in to support the public prosecutor and began counseling Cindy through her trauma, equipping her to share the truth in court. Her grandmother accompanied Cindy to her counseling sessions and made sure she never missed a court session.

Eventually, with the help of an intermediary, Cindy testified bravely against her attacker.

Your investment in IJM's aftercare program helps survivors leverage their strength and use their voice against their perpetrators—providing testimonies that help secure the strongest possible sentence.

**A pseudonym*

IJM KENYA HIGHLIGHTS

Trainings held for key stakeholders throughout 2021

The IJM Kenya team offered nearly ten different trainings and workshops during 2021 with the purpose of training over 200 public officials, media stakeholders, NGOs, community members and church leaders about how to identify and respond to CSEC.

Several of these trainings were educating church members and media actors on the importance of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). Trauma-informed care is an approach to interacting with survivors that recognizes the complex and nuanced impact of trauma, engaging with survivors in a way that is sensitive and supports their restoration. These trainings will help them conduct their work with survivors of CSEC in a sensitive, trauma-informed way, with their restoration in mind.





Empowering Survivors

The Kenya Champions of Justice is Kenya's local survivor group that includes IJM Kenya clients and former clients, including both direct survivors and surviving spouses and family members in cases in Police Abuse of Power cases in which the victim was executed by police.

In August, a brave survivor named Penina share her story with organizational heads of key government agencies within the criminal justice system. The roundtable discussion was on 'The importance of Counselling in the Criminal Justice System.' She shared how counselling helped her heal and empowered her to pursue her case to completion. In October, Penina shared her story again during an event where IJM trained 42 reporters and journalists on 'How to effectively report enforced disappearances.' She courageously appealed to the journalists to be sensitive while interviewing survivors of injustices due to the impact of trauma. She also asked them to create awareness about the Kenya Champions for Justice and amplify survivor voices.

Our Progress Together

Our vision for 2030 is simple: to put violence and slavery out of business for good. Every number below represents effort and progress toward this goal. Your partnership has meant that women and children could be freed from violence this year, and we are greatly encouraged by all the progress that has been made. Thank you!

	2021 INDICATORS	2021 RESULTS
	Relieve 17 victims of violence, with a focus on discovering, infiltrating, and disrupting private trafficking networks	16 RESCUED
	Collaborate 11 with local law enforcement to restrain traffickers	0* RESTRAINED
	Train police, prosecutors, judges, social workers organizations and community members to recognize and respond to trafficking	310+ TRAINED
	Partner with 59 local NGOs and community organizations during FYE2022	39+ PARTNERSHIPS

** The COVID-19 pandemic caused case detection and judicial processing to be slower and more infrequent than anticipated.*

The Way Forward

Over the past 20 years, IJM and our partners have relieved over 76,000 people around the world from violence, restrained over 8,000 perpetrators. Our experience has confirmed that the missing piece in addressing violence against people who are vulnerable—before education, advocacy and other preventative measures—is the strengthening of the local justice system to enforce the laws that already exist.

Through partnering with governments, NGOs and other key stakeholders to work cases of abuse through the justice system and restore survivors, we are uncovering what it takes to stop the violence. External sources have validated the evidence that our model of justice system strengthening has revitalized broken systems—increasing reports of violence, along with arrests and convictions of perpetrators. Timely and just responses by the public justice system will deter future offenders over time, protecting whole communities. Now we are ready to scale that model to ensure protection for millions more.

We are confident that by 2030, alongside our partners, we can rescue millions, protect half a billion and make justice for people who are poor unstoppable.

Scaling a proven model across Bangladesh with the potential to protect 72 million by 2030

Thousands of children in Bangladesh are living in vicious cycles of commercial sexual exploitation across the nation in brothels, hotels and private homes. Just hours after beginning initial investigations, one IJM staff member was offered a 13-year-old girl for sex by a pimp who had no fear of any consequences from government authorities. Bangladesh's broken justice system is in dire need of transformation, so that criminals are unable to brazenly harm with impunity.

We see immense potential to collaborate with the government and diverse partners in Bangladesh to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). We plan to use our experience and proven model from our work in Mumbai and Kolkata, India to come alongside the public justice system so it protects millions of vulnerable people from violence and human trafficking, including bonded labour slavery in the long term as well. IJM's partnership model positions local experts alongside justice system agencies—law enforcement, prosecutors and social services—strengthening systems and capacity to adapt and implement laws that hold criminals accountable, protect vulnerable workers from exploitation and stop trafficking and forced labour. An effective justice sector response, combined with mechanisms for international collaboration, results in decreased crime rates and protection for the community.

We would like to invite you to prayerfully partner with us as we launch our Bangladesh office this year. Together, we can protect 72 million in Bangladesh by 2030.

THANK YOU, HIGH METABOLIC CLINIC

Thank you for partnering with IJM at this pivotal moment. As you invest in these programs, you are bringing protection to men, women and children around the world. Thanks to your leadership, they are now healing and living in freedom. Together, we are supporting vulnerable communities and making security and protection from violence accessible for all. Thank you for helping us move forward, with confidence, to protect those who are exploited and abused.

