



FORMAT FOR GOOD PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

Title of the good practice	Exploited girls in crisis- double victimization
Name of organization or coalition that implemented the good practice	MirrorAfrica
When is/was the good practice implemented?	<i>From 2016 to date</i>
Where is/was the good practice implemented?	<i>Location, area, district</i> Freetown, Western Area, Sierra Leone
Total budget of the good practice	
Central theme of the good practice	<i>What were main topics?</i> Protecting girls in prostitution
Target group of the good practice	<i>List those directly benefiting from the project</i> Girls between the age of 10 – 25

A. General description

Why did you initiate the project?

Describe the context in which the good practice takes/took place. What problem does it address? (75 words)

MirrorAfrica initiated an advocacy campaign for the protection of girls in prostitution in Freetown Sierra Leone. It is estimated that 20% of commercial sex workers are girls under 18 years in Sierra Leone. Most of these girls have been victims of sexual violence. They suffered rape from people who are supposed to care for them and give them a future. These include their fathers, uncles, teachers, neighbours and police. They were raped impregnated and driven out of home. As a result, they went to stay on the street or with friends. When they gave birth to their children, they resorted to prostitution in order to find a living for themselves and their babies

Goal and Objective?

What is/was the goal, and what are/were the objectives of the good practice? What change did you aim to see? (50 words)

The goal was and still remains to end violence against girls and young women in prostitution. The specific objectives were: 1) To enhance access to justice for young commercial sex workers facing violence; 2) Empower young commercial sex workers to protect and redeem themselves from vulnerable conditions

What were the activities?

What did you really do? With whom? (100 words)

To enhance justice for the victims, MirrorAfrica mobilized other CSOs and carried out street protest in black calling on the government to arrest and prosecute perpetrators. We carried out radio programmes, we met with the heads of the police and the ministry of Social Welfare Gender and



Children’s Affairs to pass on our message. We involved the victims themselves who were eager to have a platform to make their voice. We facilitated them to form an association in order to give them voice and strength to resist violence. We also linked them up with organisations to help their career.

What were the results?

Describe the main results of the good practice? (100 words)

Government launched an investigation into the killings and harassment of girls and young women that were involved in prostitution and some arrests of suspects were done resulting to prosecution. Government also deployed security officers on the beach and this changed the situation. Additional, the commercial sex workers now have a union that stand for them. With the union they can now engage government on issues that affect them. MirrorAfrica hopes to help them formalize their union. Some NGOs demobilised and supported some of these girls to have alternative means of survival including skills training and jobs.

B. Detailed description

This section is to be completed after the exchange visits. During those visits you will have discussed and enriched your understanding of the good practice.

B.1 LOBBY AND ADVOCACY (MAX. 100 WORDS)

Describe per question below what you did relating to L&A.

To whom did you lobby?

The Local Unit Commander of the Sierra Leone Police Aberdeen, the deputy Minister of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs and heads of NGOs working on Gender based violence Issues (multi-stakeholder approach)

What did you lobby and advocate for?

Protection and justice for young commercial sex workers facing violence.

Did you change your plan/activities during the process?

Yes, initially we planned only street protest since we never had access to the decision makers. However after one street protest without result, we changed to lobbying of the Police Commander involving influential CSOs like Defence for Children International and Advocacy Movement Network

Any unexpected L&A results?

Yes, a relationship established between the police commander and the ‘leaders’ of the victims

Validate	Whom
Describe the main outcomes of the project related to advocacy , resulting from your project? <i>Specify who did what, when and where.</i>	Max 50 words In March 2016(when), the Police(who) arrested and prosecuted suspects of the violence incidences against commercial sex workers and also deployed police officers at dangerous areas(what) along the Aberdeen/Lumley Beach(where)
Describe how your organisation contributed to this change, as described above.	<i>What did your organisation do, what was your INPUT.</i> MirrorAfrica was the first organization that alarmed the harassments and intimidations of the prostitutes and took journalists to interview victims and aired out their voice on the radio. We organized victims and activists to carry out the first



	<p>street protest, which led to bigger protests and lobby. In summary, MirrorAfrica pioneered the entire advocacy activity and brought other CSOs onboard.</p>
<p>Which organisation or persons could validate the change described above?</p>	<p><i>Max 100 words</i> <i>Who could be validating (organisations or persons)</i></p> <p>Defence for Children International Sierra Leone, Advocacy Movement Network, 50/50 Group. These organizations and individuals have been working on similar issues and sometimes we had meetings with them to convince them to support our campaign since they are bigger and more influential, and when they came onboard, we saw rapid changes.</p> <p>Who did you speak/visit to validate(organisations or persons): Hawa Samai (Advocacy Movement Network), Hawanatu Mansaray (Defence for Children International) and Dr Fatu Taqi (50/50 Group) What is their function? Hawa Samai (Founder and CEO), Hawanatu Mansaray (Programme Manager) Dr Fatu Taqi (President)</p> <p>What is their relation with your organisation and the project? Our partners/collaborators</p>

B.2 INTERSECTIONALITY (MAX. 50 WORDS)

Describe per question below what you did relating to intersectionality.

To what extent did you pay attention to intersectionality?

Give one concrete example?

Validate	Whom
<p>Describe the main outcomes related to intersectionality, resulting from your project? <i>Specify who did what, when and where.</i></p>	<p><i>Max 50 words</i> The commercial sex workers (prostitutes) graduated from the position of silence to one that allow them to speak up and demand for their rights. On 30th April, the police commander at Aberdeen had a meeting with the prostitutes at his office and assured them of their protection</p>
<p>Describe how your organisation contributed to this change, as described above.</p>	<p>What did your organisation do, what was your INPUT. Our organization organized protest march and also lobbied the Commander of the Aberdeen Police requesting him to take action to protect commercial sex workers and prosecute their abusers</p>
<p>Which organisation or persons could validate the change described above?</p>	<p><i>Max 100 words</i> Who did you speak/visit to validate (organisations or persons) What is their function? What is their relation with your organisation and the project?</p>



The former Local Unit Commander of the Aberdeen Police, Mr. Brima Kanneh who is one of those that can validate as we engaged him on several occasions and he can recount all what we did together with him at that time.

The Programme Manager of Defence for Children, Ms Hawanatu Mansaray can also validate the change that has been reported above.

We collaborated a lot in driving this change and we both participated in all the important meetings representing our organisations that led to the change



C. Learning

What did your organisation learn from this good practice? (50 words)

Describe what your organisation learned especially regarding L&A and intersectionality.

We learnt that victims involvement in advocacy is key because often and then they need platform to voice out their concerns. In this way their level of confidence gradually increases and their vulnerability drops. We also learnt that in advocacy you have to be clear, consistent and collaborative.

What are 3 tips you would give to other organisations?

Tip 1: Collaboration and Partnership makes the work easier.

Tip 2: For us not without us: one cannot advocate for people and not include them in the process also one should always consider how the different issues like gender ,race ,sexual orientation etc intersects.

Tip 3: The use of simple technology and various social media to engage and info people on the organization activities.

What makes this project a good practice? (max. 50 words)

Please describe what made this project special and more successful than other projects you have done before?

This project is more successful because it resulted to many benefits. It addressed security problems of a vulnerable group, it provided justice for the victims and empowered victims to engage the police and CSOs. Finally it helped us broke new grounds, built new relationships and increased our confidence in advocacy.

D. Award

If your organisation would win the award of €5.000,- , how would you use this prize? (100 words).

MirrorAfrica will use the money to support activities of girls and young women's groups that have been established in 5 slum communities. These groups constitute girls and young women who are marginalised because of their circumstances. They are mostly teenage mothers who were expelled from school due to pregnancy and some are currently engaged in either prostitution or exploitative transactional sex. They have low esteem and hardly considered for any opportunity in the community. MirrorAfrica will train them to carryout advocacy activities that give them a voice in their communities and also empower them to seek for opportunities.

Are we allowed to use this good practice in a publication on good advocacy practices?

- Yes, we give permission to include **both** the name of the organisation and the good practice
- Yes, we give permission, but **ONLY** for including the good practice (organisation will be anonymous)
- No, we **do not** give permission to use this good practice in any publication