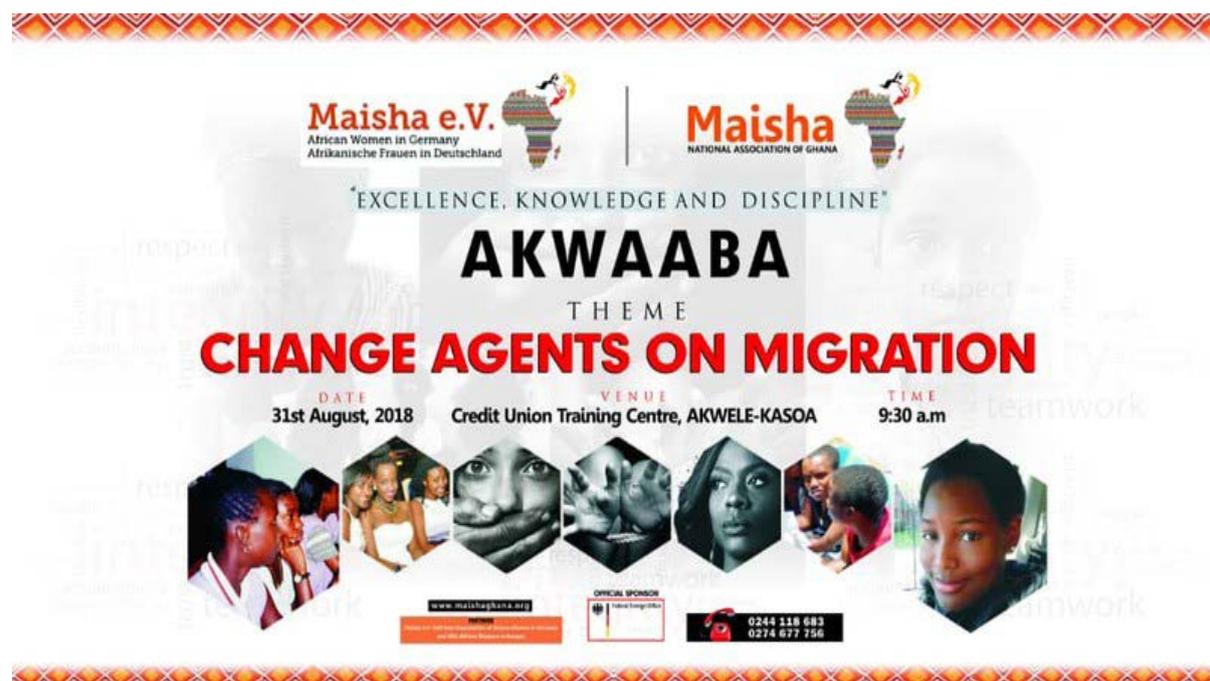


**AKWAABA
PROJECT
REPORT
- CHANGE
AGENTS
ON
MIGRATION
MAISHA
AFRICAN
WOMEN
IN GERMANY
PROJECT
IN GHANA**



2018 REPORT ON THE AKWAABA PROJECT IN GHANA



PRE-LAUNCH PREPARATIONS 27-30th. Aug.2018

After getting in on the week-end, we were able to plan various meetings to let key ministries know what we had planned. We had to be strategic about how to spend our time and in this we have to thank the Deputy Minister of Defence who told us that the Gender Ministry should be our first port of call and since there was a problem over the appointment of a Gender Minister, he was able to put us in touch with the Senior civil servants who were in charge until the confirmation of the new Minister for Gender. Our links with the deputy Minister of Defence is that he was first introduced to us a year ago as the Minister who is from the North where his constituents are noted for illegal migration. He then and even now stated that any program like this would be welcomed and assured us of his full support if we came to his constituency, where we would get office space and have security as we may need protection from traffickers who would not be pleased with us..

We were then able to have him use his knowledge of the political process to further advise us on the various ministries that would be wise to link to our conference and campaign. We ensured that invitations went to the local GIZ-CIM team and the local MP of the area, Hon. Hawa Komson, MP, Minister for President's Special Initiatives and Development with whom we have had good dealings in the past. These initiatives in the local political sphere was ably assisted by a local consultant and friend David Obampoe who has helped us meet the movers and shakers of Ghanaian society in our campaign with respect to returnees. Mr Obampoe was also helpful in the designing of flyers and posters for the launch of the conference.

At the same time we were also checking on the physical site of the Training Centre at which the

AKWAABA launch was taking place and finishing off the negotiations with the Center manager over arrangements for the room in the conference centre and the meals.

**CONFERENCE LAUNCH ON THE 31/08/2018 OF AKWAABA-CHANGE AGENTS
VENUE –CREDIT UNION TRAINING CENTRE (CUTRAC), KASOA, GHANA**

TIME-9-30 A.M. - 13-30 PM

After breakfast in the Centre's dining room, participants moved to the conference Centre in CUTRAC'S compound which was nearby. The special guests, namely the Chiefs, Church representatives in the area arrived on time. We were not able to have representatives from the Gender Ministry and the Army as promised but the representatives of the media were in full attendance.

**ONE DAY CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**TITLE-AKWAABA- CHANGE AGENTS FOR MIGRATION
VENUE-CREDIT UNION TRAINING CENTRE, AKWELEY-KASOA**

DATE-31st August, 2018

TIME-9-30 a.m.

PROGRAMME

Opening Prayer –Pastor Odonkor

**Welcome and Introduction- Rev. Mary Laing-Moses
(Maisha Ghana Director)**

**Virginia Wangare Greiner- President of Maisha Ghana and Executive Director of
Maisha Germany.**

**Introduction of the Maisha Germany and the Project
Illegal Migration –Dr. Garnet A. Parris**

Questions and Comments

Break

TRAFFICKING ON WOMEN AND GIRLS TO EUROPE-Ppt.

Questions and Comments

Contributions from our specially invited Guests

Invitation to Lunch

Tuesday 4th September, 2018

[Maisha Ghana launches initiative to assist returnees](#)

By Samira Larbie, GNA

Kasoa, Sept 4, GNA - Maisha Ghana, a non-governmental organisation has launched a project dubbed 'Akwaaba' to help reintegrate returnee into society.

The Akwaaba project aims at giving returnees, especially women, the chance to discuss their migration experiences, such as the dangers of travelling across the Sahara, the Mediterranean and the realities of living as an illegal migrant.

It also seeks to bring to bear, the method of recruiting women and girls by traffickers and to discourage people planning to embark on such journey, by empowering them to make the right decisions for their lives.

The launch was on the theme "Change Agents on Migration". Maisha Ghana was founded by African women in Germany.

Ms Virginia Wangare Greiner, the President Maisha Organization, speaking at the event said the issue of trafficking and migration dated back into the 90's and the stories behind people's migration were shocking, hence the initiative.

She said the project would train returnees, especially women, as change agents in communities by telling their stories to make societies aware of the dangers associated with travelling to Europe through illegal means.

"This project will give healing to returnees and also look at the perspective they can have here in Ghana," she stated.

Ms Greiner said this was a crucial issue that needed to be taken seriously by African countries because women and girls need to be protected, adding that, such countries needed to know what happens to their people at the other end.

She said it was important that people who wish to travel, either through legal or illegal means, get informed, access the information and make decisions for themselves.

She called on Ghanaians to be each other's keeper and look beyond their own children, having in mind that, what happened to others on such journeys could happen to their own children.

"We need to raise awareness on the realities of trafficking and illegal migration for people to be in the know and accept returnees wholeheartedly into society and not see them as failures," she stated.

Dr Garnet A. Parris, Project Director and Researcher Maisha Germany, said people who embark on such journeys often hide or live in the shadows to avoid being arrested.

He said this was because trafficking and illegal migration was fetching people more money on daily basis than any other venture aside drug dealing and therefore people needed to change their perception about migrating and trafficking.

Dr Parris said people have unrealistic information about people and places they have migrated to and this makes their conditions and situations worse when they travel to their destinations.

According to him, a 2017 International Organisation for Migration (IOM) report indicated that, Mediterranean migrate arrival reached 171,635 and deaths reached 3,116.

These numbers he said, were impacting greatly on African countries, especially Ghana, as it was leading to loss of unskilled labour and called on government to provide opportunities for all to curb the situation.

"African leaders have got to think seriously about how they address the opportunities for all, especially women and girls, because they are the future of the country," he said.

He said travelling was a good thing but if people do not go through the proper means, then it creates problems and urged the youth to be aware of this.

"If you want to travel be sure of the person taking you or your child and trust that you or the child would come back safely," he added.

He advised the returnees not to lose hope but pick up the pieces and move on.

Alhaji Mohammed Surraj Ali, linguist of Kasoa Zongo, urged the youth to heed the advice and stories of others and plan well before travelling.

Anhwere Daniel Kwame, the Secretary to the Chief of Akwele, a suburb of Kasoa, urged participants to pass on the information they had acquired on trafficking and illegal migration to would be travellers because all that glitters is not gold.

GNA

Participants were welcomed to the Centre by the Centre Manager who also gave directions to us all concerning the whereabouts of toilet facilities. Then the senior Director of Maisha Ghana gave a special welcome and introduced Mrs. Greiner, who is both the President of Maisha Ghana and the Executive Director of Maisha e.V. Germany.

Mrs. Greiner introduced participants to the Program and highlighted the main areas of the program that should be of interest to the women in the audience.

We then had contributions from the special invited guests of the area, all of whom expressed concern about the issues of illegal migration and the fact that Ghanaian young people were losing their lives in the process. Contributions were made at this point, as some our guests had to get to Friday prayers at their various mosques and would skip lunch but wanted to welcome the project to their area and assure us of their support. These specially invited guests were:

Nana Banmuhene

Ofaakor Palace

The SerikiZongo Palace, Ofaakor

The Secretary to the Chief of the Akweley Palace (Fanti)

Mallam Suraj

Zongo Palace, Kasoa

BISHOP Don Boateng's representative

Rev. Atiemo Offei

Catechist

Presbyterian Church

Christ congregation, Kasoa

Dr Parris,

Maisha's Director for Projects and Research then spoke of some of the issues surrounding illegal migration.

After an intervention by Mrs Greiner the opportunity was given to returnees to speak of their particular experiences. This opportune moment had an important though mixed response, as we then had presentations from a young man who had bitter memories of Libya, a woman who got back to Ghana after various crises in Europe and a mother who had various concerns about any help that could be given to her child (a young adult) who had returned traumatised and with injuries. In the case of the woman who spoke movingly of her situation in Europe, she was overcome with emotions and could not finish her presentation, as this was the first-time that she had the space to talk about her experiences and she had never spoken in public before. It was obvious that her experiences were still seared in her memory and Mrs. Greiner had to give her emotional support. This was also an insight into the problems that would arise in the training in which we would be later involved.

Mrs. Greiner then highlighted the training that had to take place at a later stage and the recruiting that would have to be done to accomplish our project goals.

At this point we ended, as we were already in the lunch period and the media representatives needed their opportunities to interview Mrs Greiner and the director of Maisha Ghana as well as others who seemed newsworthy.

There were animated discussions over lunch and after lunch in the courtyard, before people reluctantly left for their homes. However, many people spoke of being challenged by some of the incidents described.

PARTICIPANTS LIST BASED ON PERSONS SIGNED IN FOR MEALS

[Menu- Beans with Fried Plantain and Fish](#)

Pastor Oscar Odonkor

Noah Asare

Idrusu Wahab

Felix Ennin

Juliana Amoahoah

Doku Portia

Yaw P reloo

Menu-Jollof Rice with chicken

Okyere Michael

AduMachan

Seidu Ibrahim Asare

AmpehMaurili

Augustine Kwame Kumah

Douglas OseiTuEu

DwuduKankanti

Abdul SammadAwal

Sampson Amarring

Ken Porvee

Ebenezer Kuntor

Ellard Asare

Elliot Asare

Vida A.M. Tetteh

Victoria Moris

Derick Baafi

Evans K. Yeboah

Dr. G... Parris

Peter Akambodipo

AlhAbdulai Faisal

Haj RamatuDanah

Virginia Greiner

Mrs. Joyce Somuah Yeboah

Rufai Ahmed

DarkoBoateng

Doris Osei Tutu

Mary Laing Moses

Menu- Kenkey with Hot Pepper and Fish

Owusu Christiana

Joyce Colikpo

Grace Hanson

Isaac Prah

AbdlaiKasim

Abdul Rahman

Idrisu Mohammed

John Armah

Michael Acheampong

Hon. Ali Mohammed/ S. Ali

FatilaSulaimou

Mary Doku

KunaduMagrette

Simon Kalevor

Osumanu Musa

Jery Johns

We are aware that most, if not all of the Chiefs did not remain for lunch and some others did not sign the list but did eat e.g. David Obampoe

THE AKWAABA TRAINING PROJECT FROM 21-28TH. OCTOBER, 2018 IN KASOA, GHANA.

PROJECT AKWAABA –CHANGE AGENTS ON MIGRATION

ACTIVITY	PERIOD	RESPONSIBILITY	PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION
MULTIPIER TRAINING	21 st .-28 th . OCT. 2018	Maisha Germany	Accra
1. Exchanges on personal migration stories	22-10-2018		
2. The reality of living with Illegal Status	23-10-2018 MORNING	Maisha, Germany	Accra
3. Mediation of Information on Legal Migration	23-10-2018 AFTERNOON	Maisha, Germany	Accra
4. The empty Promises and methods used by traffickers of women and girls	24-10-2018 MORNING	Maisha, Germany	Accra
5. Illegal Migration Routes and Risks to Europe	24-10-2018 AFTERNOON	Maisha, Germany	Accra
6. The difficulties of the Sahara	25-10-2018 MORNING	Maisha, Germany	Accra

ACTIVITY	PERIOD	RESPONSIBILITY	PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION
7. Empowerment and Opportunities in Ghana for Women and Girls	25-10-2018 AFTERNOON	Maisha, Germany	Accra
8. Summary of Training, Feedback, reflection	AFTERNOON	Change Agents	Accra
9. Presentation of Certificates	26-10-2018	Maisha, Germany	Accra
10. Fieldwork and Campaigning	27-10-2018	Change Agents	Accra
11. Fieldwork and Campaigning	28-10-2018	Change Agents	Accra
PROJECT 12. Project	Documentation 15-12-2018 -31-12-2018	Maisha, Germany	Frankfurt

Venue- (CUTRAC) Credit Union Training Agency, Akweley, Ghana.

Arrival, Registration and Introduction

We all arrived at different times on the Sunday afternoon, and briefly introduced ourselves to each other and told the group that we would have registration the next day, as people were coming at different times and although the kitchen was obliging we should eat and help them to clear up the tables and get themselves off to their homes.

Daily Routine

Although there were women from different faith traditions, the women were quite happy to observe those of the Christian faith-tradition leading worship on mornings, and this proved to be the daily routine for the conference, as the women took it upon themselves to lead their Pentecostal style worship tradition in a vigorous and disciplined manner every day.

The women were divided randomly into four groups, with the intention that these groups would work closely together in a cooperative, yet competitive manner. The main challenges were to appoint a leader and ensure that everyone got an opportunity to participate/contribute. These groups were then branded by the women with their own choice of name.

THE GROUPS

GROUP 1

SURVIVAL LADIES

Deborah (Group Leader)
Charlotte
Gladys
Jacqueline
Jennifer
Jemima
Juliana
Vanessa
Elizabeth
Joyce
Betty
Bernice

GROUP 2

COURAGEOUS

Vivian
Hagar
Amuyao
Beatrice
Abigail
Anita
Tina (Group Leader)
Portia
Grace
Bertha
Awo
Becca
Charity

GROUP 3

SUPERWOMEN

Ramatu (Group Leader)
Rita
Patricia
Martha
Hagar
Gladys
Joyce
Monica
Emmana
Atta
Caroline
Dorcas

GROUP 4

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

Edna
Mary
Gifty
Anamatu
Eugenia
Eunice
Audrey
Comfort
Ruth
Joyce
Rita (Group Leader)
Maria
Beauty

Ms. V. Greiner from Maisha e.V. Germany later made a presentation on the aims of the AKWAABA project.

The women asked questions of clarification as to what was involved and how they could benefit as well as how others can benefit.

In the afternoon, the women were asked to work in groups and speak on their personal migration stories. They were also meant to report back to the main body.

The discussions in the groups were long, painful and difficult

This had to continue into the next day as there was a reluctance to end and quite appropriately, they wanted to give everyone the space to talk about their individual traumas.

This was followed up the next day with Group-work on illegally working in another country.

A Power-point presentation on The reality of living with Illegal Status was first presented to all the groups.

Later that day we introduced a mapping exercise so that groups could work out where they would find recruits to reach the goal of the programme.

On this day, the women working in groups, produced theatre to show the reality of their lives in different countries and the problems of dealing with family expectations and recruiters, little cameos which were courageous, insightful but very disturbing. These presentations were then worked on to be presented to our guests on the final day before graduation.

GROUP-WORK

GROUP 1

Topic- From what you have learned so far, how can we give messages/information to others about the difficulties about working outside of your country?

Illegal Migration:

Illegal migration is travelling without authentic documentation.

Here are some of the risks involved.

Homelessness- Illegally living in someone else's country is no guarantee of security. You may end up living in vulnerable situations and you cannot report your housing situation to the authorities.

You undergo trauma because you are forever in fear of being caught by the police, a fear which can makes you depressed.

As a result of inhumane treatment and your general feeling of vulnerability you can develop high blood pressure.

The problem of illegality means that you always have limited choices and solutions for your life, which can make you suicidal.

Racism and discrimination based on the colour of my skin is very difficult to live with as someone not accustomed to this practice.

ILL-HEALTH- There are limited opportunities to be treated when you are ill.

The process of deportation is appalling and degrading.

Sometimes this illegality forces one into the sex-industry.

GROUP SLOGANS

WE ARE QUEENS IN OUR LAND

WE ARE QUEENS IN OUR COUNTRY WE CAN'T BE BOUGHT

DON'T BE A SLAVE

PROSPERITY IS POSSIBLE IN OUR HOMELAND

Group reports on “Empowerment and Opportunities in Ghana for Women and Girls” (Day 5)

Survival Ladies (Group 1)

Participants

Deborah

Charlotte

Gladys

Jacqueline

Jennifer

Jemima

Juliana

Vanessa

Elisabeth

Joyce

Betty

Bernice

How to generate Money (Income)

Creating jobs for ourselves

Among ourselves we have experiences in various aspects of handy work (working with our hands). Such as:

Hairdressing

Seamstresses

Make-up

Production of Detergents

Second-hand clothing sellers

Production of Oil (from Palm Kernel)

Bread-making and Bags

Supporting each other by paying of dues weekly or monthly and in the training of ourselves in the above listed careers

With the assistance of Maisha, individual sponsorship, even the Government, or the private sectors.

Maisha to assist us

Survival Ladies

Our Project

Our group has decided to help each other

We are twelve ladies in the group and we have three ladies, who are good in soap-making,

Two are caterers who are well-trained and they are willing to train two of our ladies who are completely unemployed without ant technical skills

Three are administrators

Four are unemployed but have skills and have no capital to start a business.

As a group we have decided to raise funds ourselves and support each other. By taking 10 ghc a month from each other we can support ourselves. We decided to support the caterers by drafting a brand/logo for them and advertising them through social media and sometimes working together when they get big orders. We will all go to the occasion and cook together, wash and serve together and the administrators among us will ensure that our paper-work is well one, accurate and our financial accounting is well-recorded.

With the soap and detergents, two of our ladies are well-trained and will train us all so that together we produce these products commercially. The ingredients are not costly but the products sell really well on the market.

In all these business activities, the administrators will be tasked to take records of all our transactions.

Mapping

We have decided as a group to enter into the society around, be it churches, mosques, and the wider community and gather ladies who are unemployed and educate them with the news from our Maisha training and assist in training them in the areas in which we are trained, especially soap-making and help in creating jobs for themselves, as soap-making does not need much capital outlay, is easily learned and sells massively every day.

List of equipment needed for Soap detergent:

1. Thermometer
2. Regulator
3. Sauce Pans
4. Bowls
5. Wooden sticks/spoons
6. Sharp steel for cutting into sizes
7. Machine (for Soap-making and Cutting)

Ingredients for Shower-gels and soaps

1. Chemicals
2. Salt
3. Rain water/E.D.F.
4. Flavours
5. Palm Oil. Red oil and coconut oil
6. Shea Butter
7. Perfumes
8. Moringa leaves (Dried for sales)
9. Catering services for all occasions in Ghana. By Order

By so doing, one way or the other we are empowering these women and at the same we get more women involved in our Association.

- 1.) We would visit market centre, Salons, Recruit on social media and talk to women on the streets about our project and invite them to join our Association.
 - a) Market- place where women can be easily found because there are a lot of interactions over there, so we just have to find out if there are people who once travelled and are back as returnees.
 - b) Salons- reaching out to women in our various salons to set their experiences during travelling and life after travelling and are now returnees.
 - c) Advert: Printing posters with a numbers which would be posted around for people and returnees to contact the information given.

- d) Social Media: We will post it on group chats, Facebook or Instagram so people can also locate us.
- e) House-to-house campaigns: We would move from door-to-door to inform people
- f) Church- speaking to the women ministry to help engage them in talks to find out if any of them had travelled.
- g) Broadcasts from vehicles.
- h) Visits to schools, such as senior high schools.
- i) We will visit functions, such as weddings, parties, funerals and engagements.

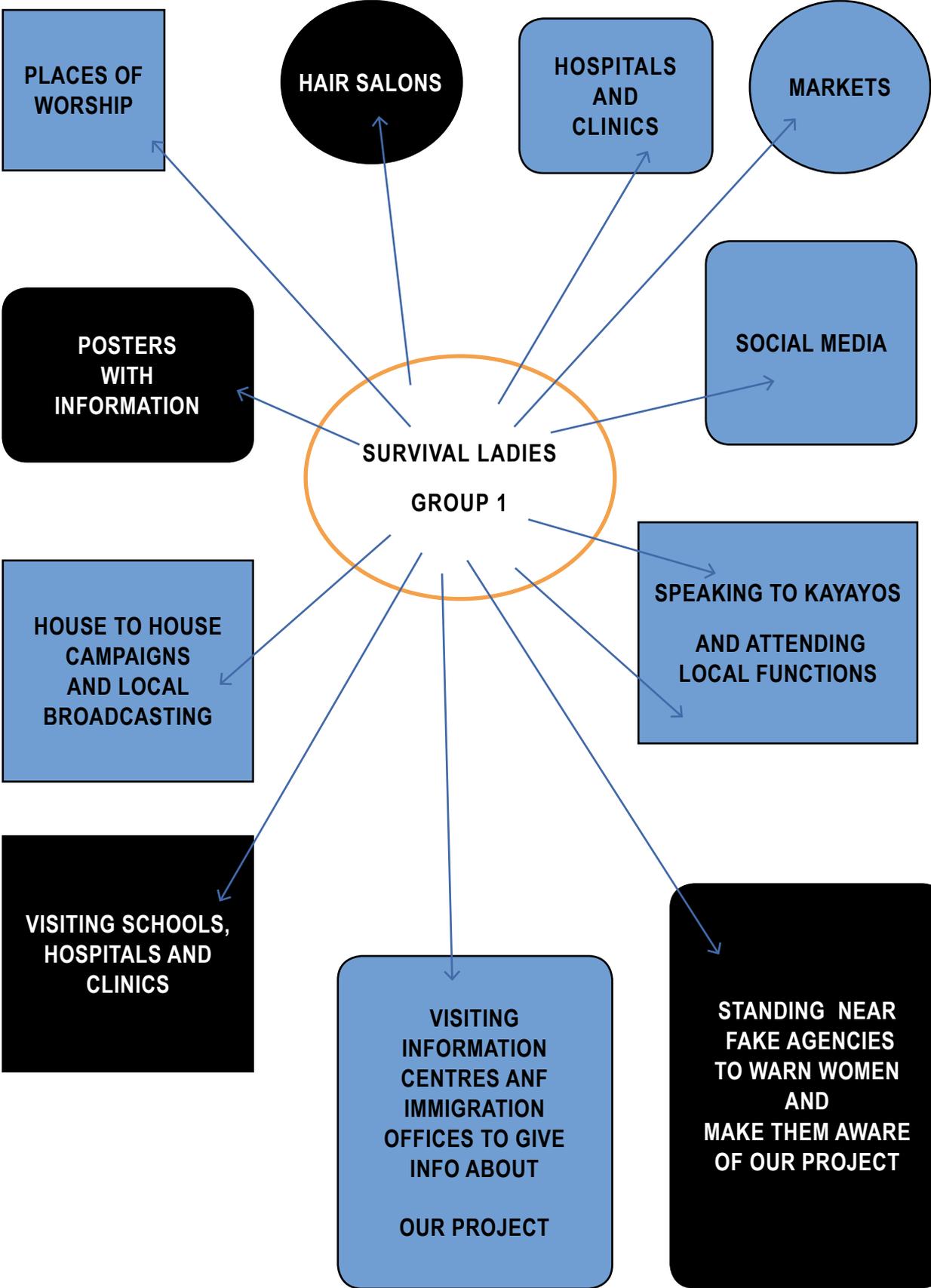
We would also visit the fake agencies and agents we have known in the past to see if there are women waiting who need to know the truth.

We would visit the Immigration Office to talk about our project, go to Information Centres.

We would speak to Kayayos (women on the street hawking)

We would visit hospitals and clinics

SURVIVAL LADIES MAPPING EXERCISES FOR CAMPAIGNING AND RECRUITING



Strategic Report from Group 1 on the following question

How can we recruit returnees?

First of all, when returnees come back with their traumas, they often have health disorders and lots of frustration.

What the person thinks about next is where to go and what to do next. These women often hide themselves, until they are emotionally, physically and spiritually sound.

What to do next

As a group, we decided to recruit women who have been through all these dramatic issues, which have made them vulnerable and have created many life problems, such as high blood pressure, insanity and even losing their marriages.

We decided to recruit these ladies or women by first asking the permission of the church leaders or those in similar position at mosques, for permission to meet and talk to their ladies.

Why Churches and Mosques?

The reason being, that if a woman is a Christian, she will go to the church for help or to prayer camps, to restore her sense of well-being through prayers and counselling. We would expect similar behaviours for women who are Muslims to seek the counsel of their imams and religious leaders. Normally, women think of their location and because they do not want family members or friends to see them, they choose neutral places like Churches and Mosques.

Secondly

We would choose market- centres where we have northerners like *kayoyos*, meaning women who walk around the market carrying huge luggage for small amounts of money and others who walk the streets trying to sell things for very little money to earn a living. This kind of vulnerable living often leads to prostitution.

We will contact the leaders of Kayoyo Associations and arrange with them so that we can give them our good news about the Maisha Akwaaba project; our next meeting date and get an opportunity to speak to all the Kayoyos.

Kayoyo women will inform other women about our news and motivation.

Thirdly

We would choose social Media by drafting our message with the Maisha logo and send them around to our contacts and our Facebook. Instagram etc.

Fourthly

We will go to the salons where women are mainly gossiping and they can spread our information and get our ladies who have come back home with their disappointment.

Fifthly

We chose nearby agencies which we can meet ladies entering and coming from the office and we will disguise ourselves so that the agents do not recognise us, but we want to stop some of the ladies who do not understand the truth about travelling.

We decided to go from house to house in some areas with a friendly approach and give the good news about Maisha and also our traumatic experiences and in doing so, we hope to convince women to join us in building Maisha Akwaaba Ghana.

Future Strategy to reach our Goals

We will group ourselves in twos according to where we stay around Accra and Kasoa which we see as Greater Accra. This would ensure that we spend very little to achieve our goals. In Accra, we would work with the Kayayos in the markets and the streets.

The Kasoa group will also tackle the communities by first informing the area chiefs and Assemblymen about our purposes which will make it easier to connect with people as we have the approval of recognised authorities in the area.

We will talk to men as they can inform their sisters about us and/or encourage their wives to get in touch with us before they make the decision about travelling.

This is how we will work to achieve our goals as a group in the Maisha Akwaaba project.

SLOGANS FROM GROUP 1

ILLEGAL MIGRATION IS A CRISIS FOR THE COUNTRY

OUR WOMEN NEED EMPOWERMENT

WE MUST FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

HARD WORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

AVOID ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

LET US PROTECT OUR PRIDE

AVOID ILLEGAL MIGRATION

SAY NO TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

REPORT FROM COURAGEOUS (GROUP 2)

How to help our group to survive

Participants

Vivian

Hagar

Amuyao

Serwaq

Beatrice

Abigail

Anita

Tina

Portia

Grace

Awo

Becca

Charity

As ladies from Courageous (Group 2) our focus is to help put the group on its feet in order to help other returnees, but we have in our group

Two hairdressers under training

Three traders

Two unemployed women

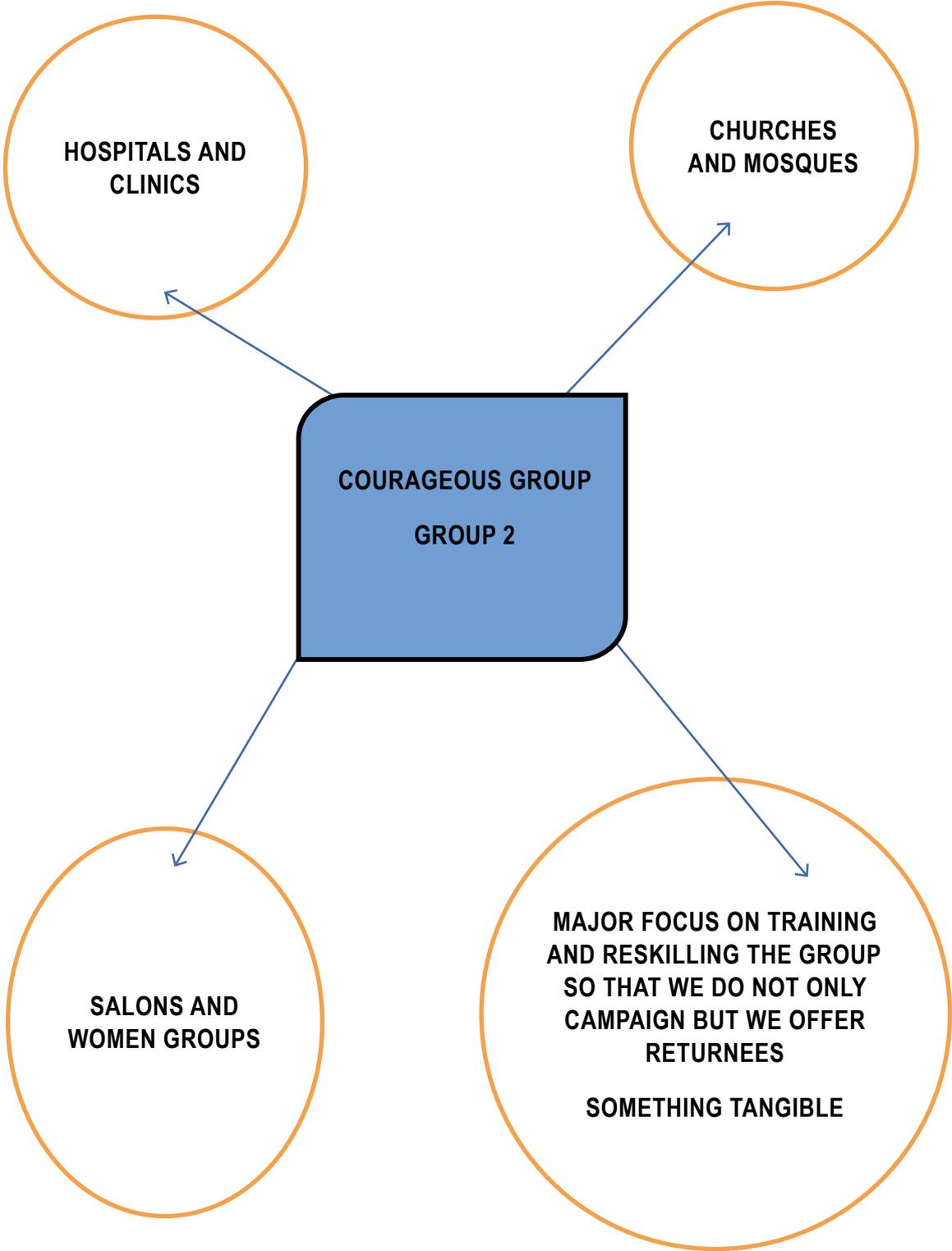
One sales supervisor

One film production worker

As a result we would need formal training in vocational skills, after we are skilled; we would focus on contributing in helping other returnees. One group member has promised to find jobs for other returnees and also advise them on how to run their own businesses.

Our main focus of contributing to help the group and other returnees would be achieved if the group members are skilled themselves. We hope our points and reasons would be taken into consideration to help empower our women and girls. However, we will fulfil our objectives for this programme by visiting Hospitals, Religious places of Worship, Clinics. Beauty Salons and Women's Organisations and Groups.

COURAGEOUS GROUP MAPPING EXERCISES FOR CAMPAIGNING AND RECRUITING



GROUP 2 SLOGANS

EVERY ILLEGAL MIGRANT HAS LOST HIS/HER FREEDOM IN A FOREIGN LAND.

OBTAIN PROPER DOCUMENTS BEFORE TRAVELLING

GET IN-DEPTH INFO OF THE COUNTRY YOU WISH TO TRAVEL TO

AN ILLEGAL MIGRANT HAS NO ACCESS TO HEALTH, RENT FACILITIES.

MOST MIGRANTS ARE EMOTIONALLY TORTURED THE REST OF THEIR LIVES THRU XENOPHOBIA

YOU CAN LOSE YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE PROCESS BECAUSE THERE ARE SEVERAL HUNDRED DEATHS TRYING TO REACH EUROPE.

BE CAREFUL! YOU CAN BE CRIMINALISED AND VICTIMISED JUST TO STOP YOU FROM ENTERING EUROPE ILLEGALLY.

UNDOCUMENTED MIIGRANTS WORK IN DANGEROUS AND VULNERABLE JOBS.

RECENT DEPORTATION POLICIES IN EUROPE DO NOT FAVOUR ILLEGAL MIGRATION

TRAVELLING USING CONNECTION-MEN IS SELF-SLAVERY.

SUPERWOMEN (GROUP 3)

Motto: Yes we have made it

QUESTION: WHAT CAN WE DO TO EMPOWER THE RETURNEE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN GHANA?

Ramatu (Group Leader)

Rita

Patricia

Martha

Hagar

Gladys

Joyce

Monica

Caroline

Dorcas

Atta

Emmana

- 1) **PROVIDE ACCOMODATION:** we have decided to send proposal to the Gender ministry, Social Welfare and Ministry of Health to build a returnee shelter for the homeless ones.
- 2) **COUNSELLING:** We have to contact a couple of counsellors who will give a series of counselling sessions for traumatised returnees.
- 3) **GIVE EMPLOYMENT:** Some members of the superwomen own businesses and are ready to employ some of the returnees for them to earn something small for themselves at the end of the month.
- 4) **HEALTH SCREENING:** We can contact hospitals and the health ministry to organise free health screening for our returnees to ensure they are physically fit and arrange for medical support for those with health problems.

SUPERWOMEN

MAPPING: WHERE DO YOU GET RETURNEES?

CHURCHES AND MOSQUES: Since we have Christians and Muslims in our groups, we have decided to visit the pastors and Imams, have a talk with them and explain to them what Maisha is, and show them how Maisha is willing to help and train returnees when they come to us. We will do this a day or two before their Sunday or Friday services to enable us to get a platform/space to talk to the members on the service days.

HOLDING OF A DURBAR: A Durbar is a community gathering. In some areas where there are recognised chiefs and we know there are lots of returnees, we will seek the opinion of community leaders requesting their permission to hold a small durbar and also ask for their assistance to gather the people to make it easier to address the community.

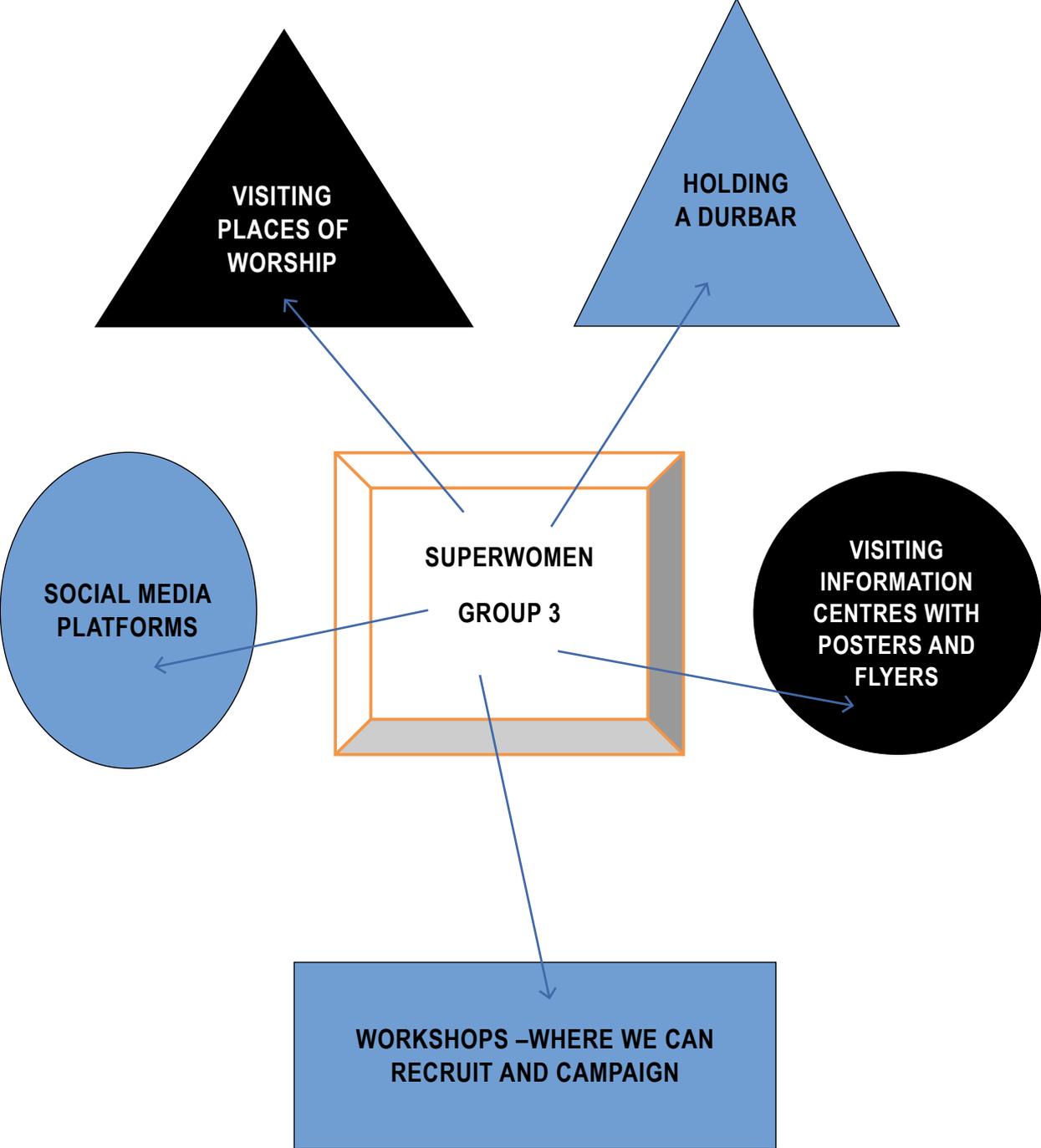
INFORMATION CENTRES: There are information centres all over towns and villages. The group can take the opportunity and pay something small and they will announce our information very early in the morning and evening when people are at home. We will leave our phone numbers with them for anybody to call for further information.

POSTERS AND FLYERS: The group plans on designing small posters and flyers and post them at market places, bus stations, airports arrival areas and any public centres with our phone numbers on them for people to contact us.

SOCIAL MEDIA: With the posters and flyers we have designed, we can take pictures of them and post them on our pages like what sup, face-book, twitter, Instagram etc. We believe most returnees and ladies who might be coming back home are on social media and will see it and respond to it.

WORKSHOPS: We have make-up artistes, hairdressers, and bread-makers in our group and can hold short workshops and training for returnee ladies and promote ourselves as Maisha.

SUPERWOMEN MAPPING EXERCISES FOR CAMPAIGNING AND RECRUITING





SLOGANS

TRAVEL WITH CARE

HOME SWEET HOME

I AM A SURVIVOR

MY COUNTRY, MY HOME

I AM NOT A MODERN SLAVE

TRAVEL WITH YOUR EYES OPEN

SURVIVE IN YOUR OWN HOME

WE ARE MAISHA

WOMEN ARE NOT SLAVES

MAISHA! MAISHA! IT'S LIFE

LET US ENCOURAGE OUR WOMEN AND GIRLS

GROUP 4 (HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS)

Participants

Edna
Mary
Gifty
Anamatu
Eugenia
Eunice
Audrey
Comfort
Ruth
Joyce
Rita (Group Leader)
Maria
Beauty

Reaching out- Mapping Exercise

How will women be reached for this programme?

Women will be reached -

Through Social Media

Through Mosques and Churches

We need to design a T-Shirt for our women

In the Front we should write

MAISHA AKWAABA QUEENS RETURNEES

And the back should say

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS RETURNEES

Visit Hospitals to spread our message of hope and check for returnees who may be hospitalised

AIRPORTS

We have decided to go to airports at look out for specific flights and hand out flyers to arrivals with the permission of the Airport authorities. We would have telephone numbers on the flyers so that we can be contacted and tell them how important it is to join the AKWAABA women for a positive future.

We need to visit the Gender ministry to inform them about the project that Maisha has brought to empower returnees.

ROAD SHOW

We would like to get to market-places and use theatre and slogans and one-to-one discussions to let people know there is hope for returnees.

Issues to make known in a roadshow

Purpose of the organisation (returnees)

One-to-one and drama

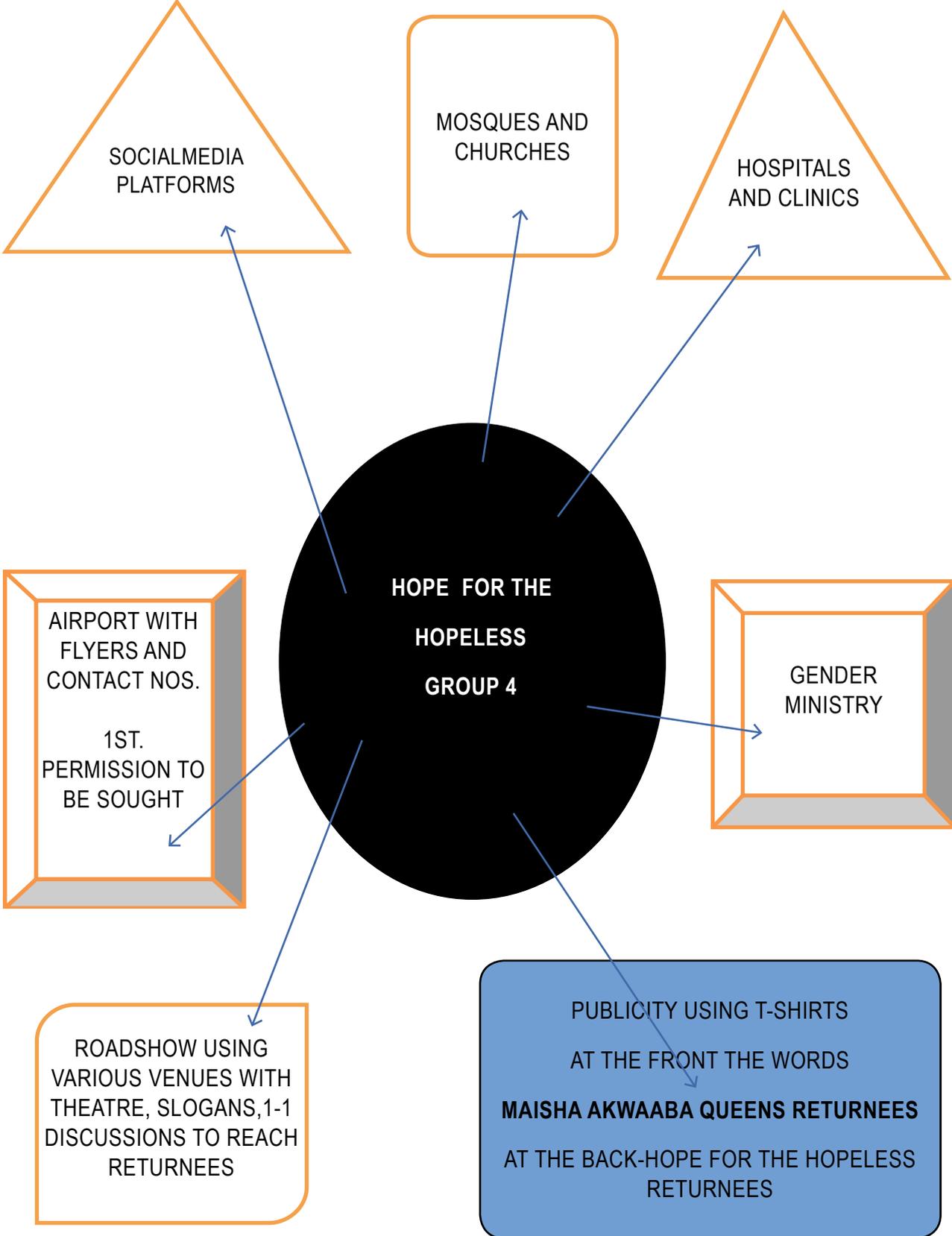
Legal means of travelling

The reality of travelling to Europe illegally and, trying to survive illegally.

(Empty promises of traffickers, maltreatment- Do not let anyone deceive you to travel illegally)

Empowering women returnees with positive messages.

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS WOMEN MAPPING EXERCISES FOR CAMPAIGNING AND RECRUITING



GROUP 4

LOVE MOTHER GHANA!!

STOP TRAFFICKING US

WE ARE SPECIAL

AVOID DESERT AND SEA CROSSING

OBTAIN LEGAL DOCUMENTS

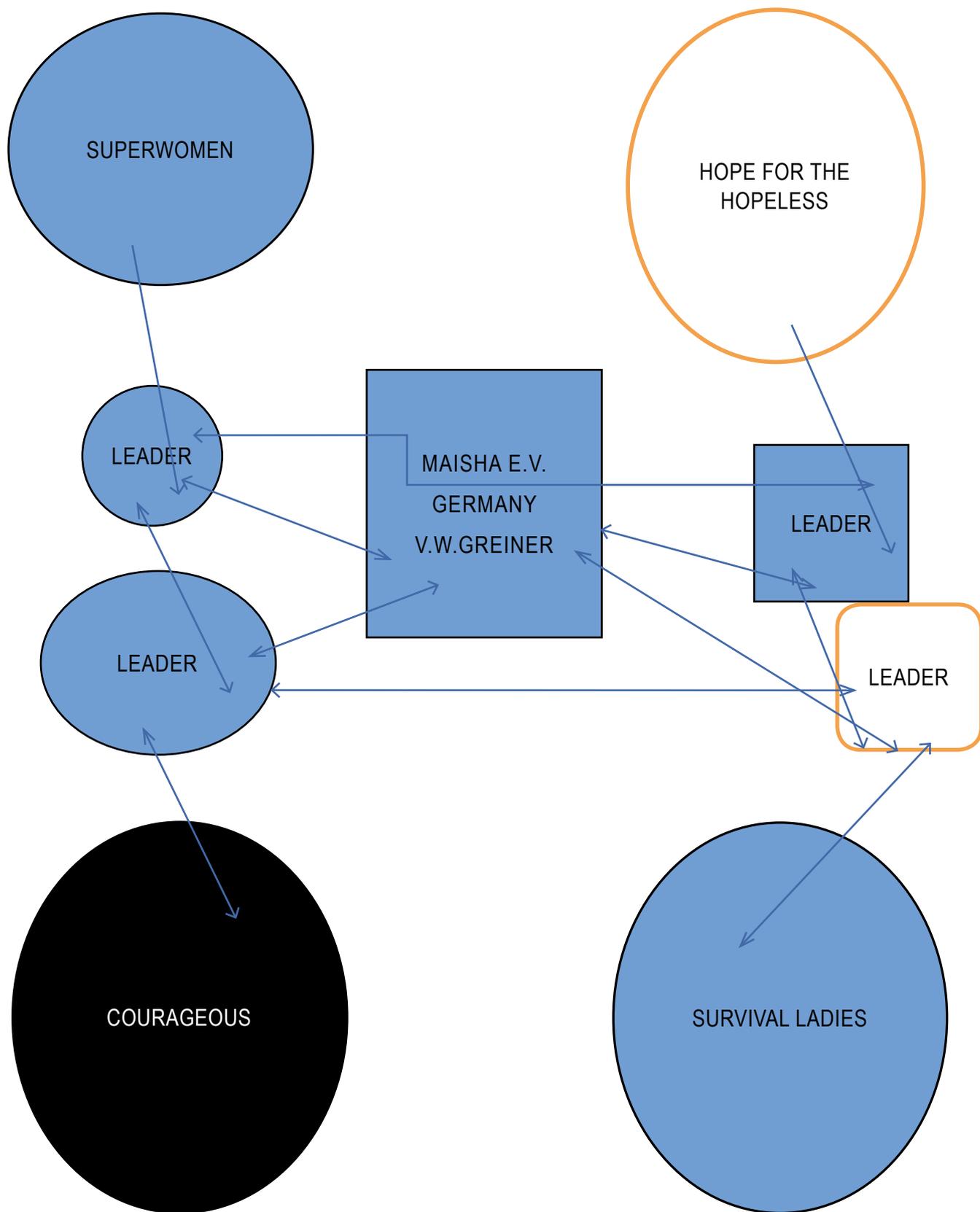
ORGAN HARVESTING IS REAL. SO BEWARE!!

WE ARE NOT FOR SALE

LET US FOCUS ON OPPORTUNITIES HERE AND NOT DANGERS

ELSEWHERE! AVOID ILLEGAL MEANS OF TRAVELLING!!

AKWAABA PROJECT STRUCTURE FOR GOALS IMPLEMENTATION



The 4 Groups have 4 elected Group leaders who are part of a committee of 11 women.

This Committee handles all issues dealing with the Akwaaba women.

However the Group leaders have direct communication through e-mail and the WhatsApp platform with Mrs. Greiner.

Group leaders are responsible for:

Ensuring that their groups meet the demands of the number of recruits to be accounted for per group. That the tally is confirmed through photographic means and that this fact is communicated to Mrs. Greiner in a recognised format.

Ensuring that each woman in their group is paid for recruitment done when money is received from Maisha Germany.

On a parallel track they also ensure that the opportunities for training and business are made available to all within the groups.

All the other power-points from 5-7 generated many questions and discussions within the groups but they wanted to reach others to dissuade them from travelling illegally and to take the chance to seek opportunities in Ghana together with the women of the AKWAABA project.

On day three of the training programme, the various groups responded to the issue of retelling their experiences and using slogans as a message to others. The groups used different forms of theatre which was very informative and shocking.

The Friday morning our guests arrived and the groups performed the previous dramas about the problems of leaving Ghana for unknown destinations without the right information and the kind of treatment in their experiences that can be meted out to women in vulnerable situations.

Then Certificates were handed out by some of the dignitaries and later we went with the guests for lunch.

Later that day, there were also group photographs with the AKWAABA project logos.

The Role of the European Trainers as multi-layered:

We had done the research for our various topics

As encouragers- some people struggled with numeracy and literacy problems

As listeners, who could listen in on groups and direct them back to the right paths if their groups were getting deflected in their discussions.

We were also there to be resources whenever issues arose that groups felt they needed information.

Mrs Greiner and Dr. Parris who are both formally business-trained, did an afternoon with the groups on business training.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS

<http://www.ghnewspapa.com2018/09/05/maisha-national-ghana-launch-akwaaba-project>

(Headline -Association Ghana Launch Akwaaba Project)

MAISHA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION LAUNCH (sic) AKWAABA

www.youtube.com

<https://youtu.be/L8Q8VCBPppw> and https://youtu.be/ofxEa-m_rwc

<http://ghananewsagency.org/social/maisha-germany-trains-54-returnees-to-undertake-outreach-initiatives-140762>

<https://www.ghanamma.com/2018/09/04/maisha-ghana-launches-initiative-to-assist-returnees/>

https://facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1014106648745476&id=767451650077645

REFLECTION

Seven key issues excited our participants during our program

- 1) Understanding the mapping exercise and grasping how they can reach out with messages to others, who have shared their misfortune.
- 2) Understanding the power of their messages and the use of theatre as a powerful message.
- 3) Empowerment and opportunities in Ghana are realities if women are prepared to work together and support each other.
- 4) The reality that someone e.g. Maisha was interested in their welfare, especially as they were stigmatised for most of the period since their return to Ghana.
- 5) The women were able to organise meaningfully and before the programme was finished the various groups were already formulating opportunities as entrepreneurs with a bank account and logos for the various groups and organising venues for training. Those who are skilled, imparting training to others.
- 6) The amazing communication and support in the groups as many women had literacy and numeracy challenges.
- 7) The project included women who had returned from Middle Eastern countries as they saw Europe as their next area of travel.

These groups want to work cooperatively as women, not as individual businesses, thus their activities cannot be pigeon-holed for business funding in the normal manner, which is challenging to funders.

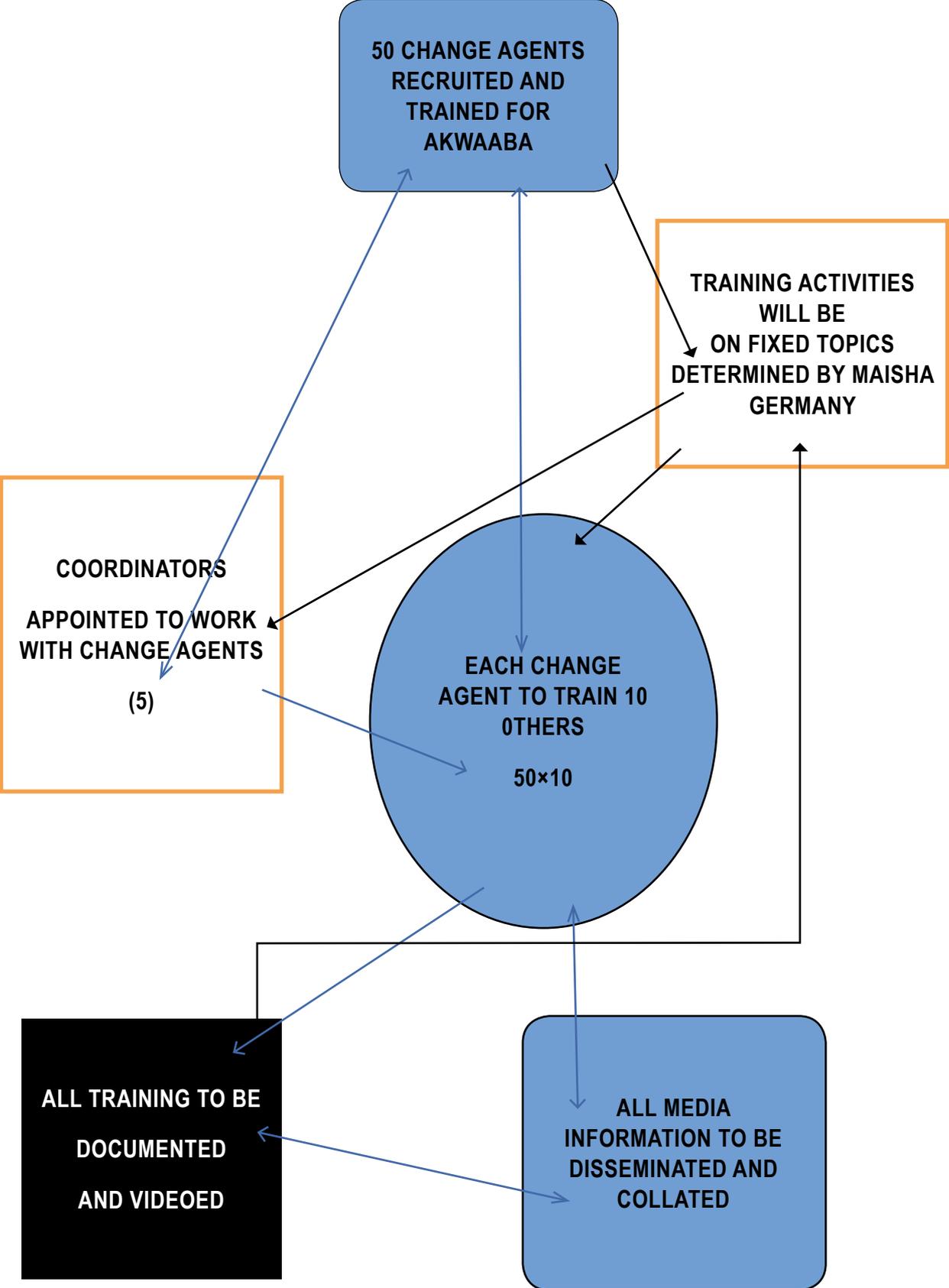
RECRUITMENT AND AWARENESS-RAISING

By December 31st. 2019, Maisha had received a total of 400 recruits that we could acknowledge as fitting our criteria for legitimacy. Photos had to be clear, had to be named and where possible a readable signature. This meant that a number had to be returned as it was impossible to link the photographs to the signatures. We closed the receiving of photos by the end of December 2018, so even those we asked to clarify names against photographs were not able to receive the new clarifications. Overall, the time constraints meant that we could not reach the target of 500 recruits. Of course, things were also made difficult, because some of the recruiters had their own problems with literacy and numeracy, so although they had phones and could take pictures, the mechanics of then writing names and getting others to do so was a real problem.

Even attempting local coordination so that we could receive quality photographs proved difficult because of the different soft-ware packages people had on their phones. This is something that we have to think through, as we further realise with the issues concerning data/ information we have to be careful in how we collect, store and make any data available to others. Nevertheless, the issue of collecting, and determining the legitimacy of photographs were challenging.

In addition, the reality of blogging proved to be a major challenge for obvious reasons, so we stuck primarily to a WhatsApp. Group.

AKWAABA PROJECT



Coedited by Virginia Greiner CEO of Maisha and
Dr. G.A. Parris (Research and Project Director of Maisha)

A REPORT FROM MAISHA GERMANY e. V.

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Thanks to Our Sponsor:



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