



Session 3 Community Mapping: Intercepting Supply

As you just learned, intercepting the supply is the first component of sex trafficking prevention. The supply in America is mainly children between the ages of 11 and 15, many of whom are in the foster care system. Even where there are young women who are older, it is often the case that they got into the life at a younger age. It is vital that Christ-centered volunteers and families get involved with at-risk children and youth to prevent this exploitation before it begins.

This section will help you discover and learn about organizations that serve at-risk children and youth to intercept the supply. Before you get started on your investigation, there are some things to keep in mind.

There are some groups and organizations that take a decidedly different stance on sexuality than Bible-believing Christians. Some organizations promote sexual relationships for teenagers, as long as they are non-abusive and proper protection is in place against STDs and pregnancy. Some organizations promote LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans-sexual, Queer) perspectives and behaviors. There is a narrow but important distinction between accepting and loving those who practice LGBTQ behaviors and promoting it. This is not to say that you shouldn't work with groups like these, but these are issues to keep in mind. It is important to decide beforehand how you will handle situations involving these issues, and to understand the ideology of a group or organization before committing to it. Understand their motivation, goals, and mission and determine whether they align with your own.

Many youth organizations deliberately leave God out of the picture. For some, like state agencies, this is acceptable. These can be good places to let the light of Christ shine through you to the other members of the organization as well as to those you are serving. Other organizations may be doing work where the clear message of the Gospel is important and necessary, like mentoring. As you look into these organizations, consider 1) whether volunteers are free to share their faith with those they serve, and 2) whether a non-religious stance or a clear message of the Gospel is appropriate in that area.

Organizations and ministries are filled with flawed human beings. You will never find the perfect one. But there are some things to look for and some things to avoid. Some groups have a great vision but lack the skills, knowledge, or experience necessary to implement it. This may mean you look for a different group that is truly making a difference, or it may mean that you bring your knowledge, skills or experience to help that group be more effective.

Again, feel free to try things out as you go through this curriculum, but keep in mind that there are all kinds of places to get plugged in. You may be called to work with an organization to Intercept Supply; you may be called to foster or adopt. You may be called to focus on a different area of prevention. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you continue to work through this community mapping homework.

That being said, let's get started! As a recap, some things to keep in mind:

As you investigate organizations that are already working to cut the supply in your area, keep in mind the applicable cautions from Session 2 as well.

- Watch out for organizations that promote popular views of sex. Make sure that you understand the ideology of a group and determine whether they align with your own before getting involved.
- Make sure that the organization will allow you to live out the passions God has placed on your heart. For example, you may feel called to verbally proclaim the Gospel to those with whom you work, and this may not be permitted in a particular organization. You may feel called to live out the example of Christ as a light in non-Christian or government organizations, and this work is just as important. Check where God is calling you and make sure that you partner where you can live out that calling. Look for organizations that really seem to be making a difference. Some groups are made up of well-intentioned but ineffective leaders. If that is the case, you may want to partner with a different organization. On the other hand, if the vision of the organization is good, and it fits an important need in your community, you may want to help it become more effective.
- Seek God's direction on the type of involvement He wants you to have in this fight. You may be called to work on Intercepting Supply through an organization or foster care/adoption, or you may be called to another area of prevention.

The community mapping homework is designed to be adapted for your individual or group's needs. Each homework assignment is divided into smaller steps that can be done in a day (A), a week (B), or over a longer period of time (C).

This session, identify who is working with youth in your area. Look for the following types of organizations:

- Group homes
- After school programs for at-risk youth
- Mentoring programs
- Adoption/foster care agencies
 - Royal Family Kids Camp
 - Safe Families

Step A: Do an Internet search to identify local groups and organizations working with at-risk youth in your area. Begin filling out the chart [Intercepting the Supply Organizations Template](#) with your findings. [Note: if you come across gang outreach ministries or mentoring for young men/boys, make a note that these organizations will also fit into the session on Transforming Facilitators.]

Some suggestions on where to start:

- <http://www.grouphomesonline.com/>
- Local United Way website.
- Outreach or Local Missions sections of local church websites. These will have the best leads on trusted Christian organizations.

Step B: Call or meet with the following:

- The missions/outreach pastor at your church
- A local educator (teacher, principal, etc.)
- A local social worker

Ask each one to tell you:

- The top five ministries in your community that reach out to at-risk youth
- A brief description of each one, including why he or she chose that particular one
- Contact information to learn more.

Step C: Begin to find out the needs of the top organizations you have identified. This could involve browsing their website, or calling or meeting with a staff member. Ask for both immediate and long-term needs, including funding, material donations, property needs (yard cleanup, decorating, painting etc.), prayer needs, and volunteer needs. You can use the spreadsheet "[Local Organizations Needs Template](#)" to help you record and track these needs.