



Session 7 Community Mapping: From Awareness to Action

A lot of times people think they aren't qualified for "anti-trafficking work," but the reality is that everyone has unique skills and resources that can be utilized for prevention and intervention of sex trafficking. Find out what skills and resources are available in your group and apply them to the needs in your community. Are there doctors, lawyers, people with time to give someone a ride, people able to give toiletries or hot meals, people able to donate bus tickets, etc.?

Begin to take stock of the resources you have available to you through the group and build up a database of those resources. Key resources that organizations often request include:

- Basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies
- Communication – mailing address, Internet access, phone usage
- Counseling
- Dental
- Education
- Employment
- Identification - ID cards, driver's licenses, passports
- Immigration services
- Legal representation
- Medical and prenatal
- Optometry and ophthalmology
- Orthodontia
- Shelter and housing
- Tattoo and scarring removal
- Therapy
- Transportation – bus passes, light rail tickets, emergency transport

As you learn about new needs, refer available resources to fill those needs.

The goal of this exercise is to empower people by showing them how much they can do and how much of an impact they can have. One leader should be designated to keep this database. However, **this leader is NOT responsible for signing members of the group up to volunteer or serve at different organizations. Each group member is responsible for taking action themselves.** This list should be given as a resource to the anti-trafficking network or coalition in your area or can be a starting place for creating your own network or coalition (See Guide to Starting a Successful Coalition/Network).

Step A: Create a survey and send it to the people in your group. Use the sample spreadsheet [Volunteer Resources Database](#).

Step B: Ideally, fill out that database at your Session 7 meeting. If you do not, make sure to follow up to get the information you need. Lots of people want to help. Lots of people are well-intentioned. But lots of people are busy, too.

Step C: Piece the puzzle together! Combine your list of needs from local organizations and ministries with your list of individual's skills and abilities. Many people are looking for ways to help, but just aren't sure where to start. Help them out by offering suggestions based on the database you created.

NOTE FOR THE LEADER: At this point, you should know all of the members of your group and whether or not certain members are fit for providing the services/resources they list on the Volunteer Resources Database. Before you recommend any of your group members to fill needs at other organizations, make sure to flag any potential concerns you have. Use your discretion, but raise this with the group member him or herself and suggest he or she get involved in another way, or let the organization know. Remember, first and foremost this is about bringing glory to God and serving the vulnerable and the oppressed, not about our own experiences in getting involved. It is our job to keep potential victims safe from harm.