Freedom Collaborative: Building New Connectivity for the Counter-Trafficking Movement

Presented by Tania DoCarmo, Chab Dai Int’l
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About Chab Dai

- Have gained strong reputation for assisting in increasing stakeholder collaboration, good practice, assisting in recognizing gap areas, and increasing capacity of stakeholders
- Launched “Global Learning Community” (GLC) project in 2011
Global Learning Community
Project Objectives

- Inform, mobilize and advocate with key influencers around the globe to improve & expand understanding of HT & exploitation.

- Increase int’l program standards through building capacity and resourcing NGOs

- **Facilitate connectivity**, knowledge-sharing & cross-border cooperation among stakeholders through Freedom Collaborative, an online application
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Facilitating Connectivity (Obj. 3)

- True change can only occur through collective impact
  - No single org can address complexity of HT, exploitation on own
  - Requires cross-disciplinary, community-driven approach
- Due to increasing number of anti-trafficking stakeholders on a global-scale, technology is one way to increase and facilitate connectivity
- Increased connectivity is essential for sharing promising practices, referral mechanisms (esp. cross-border), knowledge-sharing, and accountability
Freedom Registry

- In 2011, Chab Dai USA launched Freedom Registry, a web application designed to increase inter-organizational awareness in the U.S.
  - Public profiles help movement see who is doing what, where.
  - Aggregation of data allows us to visually pinpoint gap areas in services by stacking filters.
  - Organizations are vetted to some degree using good practice questions and checking data internally.
- Updated to “2.0” in 2013 to include interactive map, profile overhauls.
Freedom Registry Expansion

• With initial start of GLC and launch of Freedom Registry in the US, were approached by partners in other regions wanting Freedom Registry to come to their country

• In 2012 established process for expansion to occur through national steering committees

• Expansions currently in process:
  - Cambodia, Costa Rica, Canada, UK (active, launching in 2014)
  - South Africa, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Eastern Europe, Haiti, and others (planning)

• Partners are primarily coalitions
Freedom Collaborative

- An open-data ecosystem for anti-trafficking stakeholders (and potentially other platforms through the API) to *contribute to* and *draw from* a collective knowledge base
- Development has been a collaborative process - all elements brainstormed and planned using global advisory board, national steering committees (FR)
- Will merge with existing Freedom Registry
- Initial elements will launch Dec. 2, 2013
Elements of Freedom Collaborative

- **Freedom Registry** *(expanded into additional countries)*
- A database of vetted “specialists,” their specialties, resume/CVs, position, contact info and publications
- An open-source library database (vetted via “specialist” comments & ratings)
- A database of social enterprises working w/HT or exploitation survivors (or at-risk populations)
- Civil society pairing tools

Empowering the community to create and collaborate in real time.

The Freedom Library is the heart of collaboration — centralizing, sharing and disseminating collective knowledge within the movement. No one individual or organization owns or curates the content. Its books, articles, research, videos and tools are added by any member of the community. Items are then classified, updated and rated by the community to ensure that the most relevant item rise to the top.
Potential for Researchers

• In 2013, we launched an initial API for Freedom Registry allowing external applications to connect with Freedom Registry data

• Example:
  - Charissa Lind (University of Washington) built a data visualization application to visualize FR data from the entire state of Washington

• API capability will expand with Freedom Collaborative
Current & Potential Challenges

• Ensuring the platform (currently FR) is all-inclusive and comprehensive
• Time spent for organizations, individuals to update their profiles
• “Buy-in” from all levels of stakeholders
• Competitive nature held by many stakeholders not to share data or information, especially in a public way
Q&A, Audience Input
Thank you.

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