

Research Methodology

The research was designed before COVID-19 and borrowed strongly from the participatory action research paradigm by including the views of key stakeholders who attended the National Human Trafficking Conference held at Arrupe University, Harare in 2019. While we had anticipated that face to face interactions with organisation partners would inform the research process, COVID-19 placed restrictions on this form of research engagement. Although our initial decision was to resort to electronic data sharing, which worked well for one partner organisation, LJl, this did not work for CLZ that keeps most of its data in hard copy format (physical files). In addition, CLZ's data is not centrally managed and is kept at their different drop-in centres that are scattered across the country. With the significant improvement in the Zimbabwe COVID-19 situation in July 2020, our in-country research team members managed to collect data from CLZ drop-in centres in Harare, Masvingo, Bulawayo, Gweru and Kwekwe with the support of CLZ staff at these centres.

Description of data from CLZ

After the signing of the data sharing agreement, the process of data collection involved engaging CLZ in order to establish the nature of the available data and format in which it existed. We identified they had data collected through their 24-hour helpline which was handwritten and stored in physical files to allow follow up visits with clients. In line with the project aims and objectives, we only selected the cases that the organisation had classified as matching human trafficking. All typing, translation and anonymization of data was done by the organisation to ensure confidentiality. I have shared this raw data for reuse.

Description of data from LJl

Following the signing of the data sharing agreement, we received a sample of the data that LJl held on Human Trafficking in Zimbabwe. We further engaged the LJl to get clarity on the data sample shared before the commencement of the data sharing. The data that we eventually collected was based on recorded cases whose identity was withdrawn in line with ethical standards for handling such data. We I have shared this raw data for reuse.

Weakness of the data

The weakness of the data relates to its relevance and the purpose for which it was originally collected. Both data sets were primarily gathered for a different purpose, than the objectives of the current project. This therefore means that such data do not provide a comprehensive story as they represent individuals' lived experiences. We have therefore decided to share raw data to allow secondary users the freedom to engage with the data and bring their own interpretations.