

Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking
Biography
Lusambu Karim

Lusambu Karim was born and raised in the Eastern part of Uganda, in Nalugugu Village in the Sironko District. He had a healthy, happy childhood, went to school, helped around the house and village planting crops, and rearing domestic animals such as cows and goats. His life was a good one, mainly uneventful. He went to school and stopped at Ordinary Level of Education (UCE) (equivalent of two years of high school). After that, he worked as a driver delivering goods for an electronic company. In 2009, he was recruited by a Ugandan security company which was providing demining, construction, and security services for the U.S. Department of Defense. He was hired to work as a security guard on a U.S. Army Base in Iraq from 2009-2010. When he returned from Iraq, he worked in Uganda as an Uber driver. Ten years later, he was recruited to work in Afghanistan. There the workers worked in unsafe conditions, with no dining facilities, chronic illnesses and untreated injuries, a breach of employment contract, and unsuitable living conditions: during the first wave of the COVID pandemic, his company warehoused workers in a locked building along with 171 fellow countrymen. He tested positive for COVID and was held for additional months. When he returned to Uganda, he experienced physical and mental illness and ended up in a mental hospital. After spending some months there recovering, he is now helping others in Uganda who have been trafficked.