

**Rapid assessment report in trafficking of children into  
worst forms of child labour, including child soldiers  
in Uganda**

**A study conducted in the districts of  
Busia, Pader, Kalangala Masaka and Kampala  
as part of IPEC TBP Preparatory activities**

**February 2007**



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I hope the report will be widely used to help in combating this modern slavery of children!

Dr. Regina Mbabazi  
ILO-IPEC, Kampala

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rapid assessment was undertaken to collect data on child trafficking in Uganda with ultimate goal of designing interventions and policies for addressing child trafficking. The rapid assessment was a cross-sectional study undertaken in 5 districts of Kalangala, Masaka, Kampala, Busia and Pader. The study unravelled a number of factors fuelling child trafficking and recruitment of children into soldiering, methods of recruitment and hazards the children meet.

The assessment findings unveiled a shocking reality facing children entangled in the web of child trafficking. It was found that there is little information on the actual number of children trafficked in Uganda, due to the ignorance of the community about the problem, apathy of enforcement agencies and the hidden nature of the practice. It was revealed that the biggest number of boys were trafficked at an early age mainly falling in the age bracket 10-14 years, while girls are moved slightly a higher age between 15-19 years.

Child traffickers mainly entice children with sugar, bread and money. Traffickers seldom abduct children in non war areas. Child trafficking mainly targets children who have lost their parents, mainly out of school and at the brink of poverty. Most of the children are promised employment opportunities, a better life, making quick money and school fees. Outstanding in the study was the assumed role of guardians and relatives in initiating and facilitating child trafficking. It was noted that in addition to promises made to the children, guardians were also enticed with sugar, alcohol, and monthly remittances of income earned by their children.

Traffickers though mainly informal, varied from individuals, friends of children, pimps, religious groups to employment bureaus. Majority of the children are taken individually while others are moved in groups sometimes including several children from the same family. Children are mainly taken to urban areas to work as Child Domestic Workers (CDWs), bar/restaurant attendants, sex workers, strippers, and vending. Others are taken to work at fishing/landing sites and agricultural plantations.

Parents and relatives have been found to be mainly unaware of the consequences which befall their children. Even those parents whose children disappeared had taken no effort to report to authorities. Many relatives appear to praise the traffickers, whom they regard as helping to reduce the burden of extra children in the family. Similarly, NGOs and law enforcement agencies were not very conversant with this issue and thus not playing a significant role in fighting the problem.

The assessment established that between 25,000-30,000 children were abducted and recruited in the Lord's Resistance Army ranks, mainly through well coordinated missions and chains of collaborators who raided villages and Internally People's Displaced Camps (IDPs). Child trafficking by abduction does not only occur in war zones but also takes place in non-war zone areas especially Karamoja.

Children who have been withdrawn usually suffer a myriad of including depression and trauma. Others actually are killed.

Cross-border trafficking appears to be increasing basing on the interviews; mainly driven by factors such as promises of new employment opportunities, marriage proposals and search for a better life. Trafficked children from Uganda are usually taken to Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and DRC, while others are taken to Dubai, UAE, Europe and America. Cross-border child trafficking is organised by businessmen/women, relatives, religious groups and NGOs. In terms of cross-border trafficking, Uganda as a country is a mixture of source, transit and destination.

It was found that trafficked children including child soldiers were subjected to intolerable, inhuman and worst forms of degrading treatment. Children were forced to fight as combatants, kill innocent people, smuggle drugs and work as drug conduits while others were sexually abused. It is reported that many abducted children were involved in other hazardous activities including carrying heavy luggage, ammunitions, wounded soldiers, merchandise and loot. Other children were used to torture, kill and do reconnaissance missions in Uganda and Sudan. Some abducted children were traded for guns; and used as sex slaves. Most children interviewed were maimed and suffering from a myriad of psycho social depression and sexual trauma.

The assessment revealed various efforts to address the problem of child trafficking thinly exist on the ground mainly undertaken by NGOs, and ILO partners. The child soldier problem seems to have received more attention despite the gaps and challenges in the delivery of interventions. Government efforts in addressing the issue of child trafficking were largely lacking. It was also evident that Uganda lacks a human trafficking law, the code that exists is scattered in the penal code. There are gaps and inconsistencies in the law, have been compounded with laxity in enforcement. LAW-Uganda supported by ABA initiated a human trafficking bill which should be largely supported by ILO.

In combating child trafficking and the problem of child soldiers, various activities have been identified in the proposed strategy including law reform and training, victim support, sustained media campaigns, poverty eradication and addressing the child soldiers and servitude problem). In addition there is need for stakeholders to work together through a coordinated approach because the problems and needs presented by children are multifaceted and thus need a multi-sectoral and participatory approach involving government, civil society, communities and children.

## DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS

Child: shall mean any person less than 18 years of age.

Child Soldier: A child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities. (Paris Principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces or armed groups. In this report, child soldier will also be used with a similar meaning as it is the commonly used term.

a) Trafficking in persons”: “shall mean recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipts of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of the position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of the person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. (Palermo protocol, 2000)

’Exploitation’ shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms sexual exploitation (pornography), forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs including organized crime units, drugs;”

b) the consent of the victim of trafficking set forth in sub paragraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used”

c) the recruitment, transportation, transfer harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered” trafficking in persons”” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article”.

Hazardous work: by children is an activity or occupation that, by its nature or type, has or leads to adverse effects on the child’s safety, health (physical and mental) and moral development. Hazard could also derive from excessive workload, physical conditions of work, and or work intensity in terms of the duration or hours of work even when the activity or the occupation is known to be non-hazardous or “safe”.

Human rights: Inherent claims or entitlements of an individual that protect each and every person from abuse and deprivation that would prevent them from attaining their full potentials. For example, equality, non-discrimination, participation and inclusion. Citizens are right-holders and states are duty bearers.

Psychosocial: Psychosocial underlines the dynamic relationship between psychological and social experiences where the effects of each are continually influencing the other. ‘Psycho’ in this study refers to depressive, emotional, and behavioural problems. ‘Social’ refers to a person’s external relationships and to the influence of the social environment on her well being including stigma, physical and sexual abuse, and poor household and caregivers’ characteristics (Barton and Mutiti, 1998).

Social protection: Describes all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized; with the overall objective of reducing the economic and social vulnerability of poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Vulnerability: The condition of being at risk of becoming poor, or other misfortunes such as violence, and natural hazards (exposure to risk, sensitivity to shock and level of resilience). Vulnerability of children in general has been described as multi dimensional as it reflects not only relative susceptibility but also defencelessness against economic and other shocks not only linked to HIV but to Child Labour as well.

Worst forms of child labour: Article 3 (a) of Convention 182 according to which the term “the worst forms of child labour” comprises (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict”.

## ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AP	Action Programme
CABA	Children Affected by AIDS.
CBO	Community Based Organisation.
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
FBO	Faith Based organisation
FCA	Formerly Abducted Children.
HIV	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour.
KIN	Kids in Need
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
NGOs	Non government organisation
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
RA	Rapid Assessment
RUDIMEC	Rural Media Communication agency
SP	Social Protection
TBP	Time Bound Programme
TOR	Terms of Reference
UAC	Uganda AIDS Commission
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UYDEL	Uganda Youth Development Link
WFCL	Worst Forms of child Labour

**Glossary of the Slang's used in trafficking of children**

Chokora	= Describing children in Smuggling
Futula	= Smuggling
Kayungirizi	= middlemen
Popi	= Police
Demu	= girls
Sinalya	= Local names for girls involved CSEC
Kyankubye'	= Intoxication of drugs.
Bakazende	= parents/ guardians
Enugu	= envy.
Nkologo	= Security men
Kubatisa	= to Lie
Ebirango	= Disappointments.
Saya	= friend.
Kuula	= Con someone without paying back

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## CHAPTER ONE

# Background to rapid assessment on trafficking of children into the Worst forms of Child Labour including Child Soldiers in Uganda

### 1.1 Trafficking of children in Uganda

There is strong evidence that trafficking of children exists in Uganda. Whereas cross-border trafficking of children is believed to be growing in Uganda, the domestic trafficking of children is a much bigger problem. Child trafficking includes recruiting, harbouring and moving a child from his/her home for commercial sexual exploitation or to work in other forms of exploitative labour. The movement of boys and girls from rural areas to urban areas is of such large proportion that it has taken on a life of its own and is almost considered the norm among the rural populace. The parents and guardians of the affected children are made to believe that there are great employment opportunities in the urban areas. And yet such children mostly end up in exploitative situations like working on the streets, hawking and vending, Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE), domestic work and in other undesirable places.

In Northern Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that has been fighting government for the last 20 years has abducted between 25,000 -30,000 boys and girls and recruited them into its ranks as sex slaves, cooks, combatants and other forms of servitude. Other abducted children have ended up in Sudan, Middle East and beyond as sex slaves. The armed conflict has also resulted in displacement of families into surrounding districts and in economically active centres where the children have ended up in the WFCL as the only option for their survival and that of their parents.

Recent newspaper articles have reported a booming trade in Karimojong girls and boys that is taking place in livestock markets in the districts of Katakwi, Kumi and Soroti in Eastern Uganda. Karamoja is a semi arid area in North eastern Uganda bordering Kenya which is plagued by famine, poverty and cattle rustling. The children are bought by traders and most probably end up in the WFCL. Child trafficking is one of the most horrible forms of violence against children, which denies them the right to lead a dignified life. It violates their rights to development education and health and makes them lose their roots and cultural identity, thereby exposing them to different vulnerabilities such as child labour in its worst forms, sexual abuse and exploitation, early marriages, armed conflict and other vices.

In view of the above, it is therefore very important to effectively understand the dynamics and underlying factors of the problem of child trafficking and devise interventions to address it. Several studies, rapid assessments and surveys have been conducted on the different categories of child labour and these have contributed to the under-

standing of the complex problem, the causes, characteristics and associated factors but very few have specifically addressed the problem of trafficking of children as a major drive to WFCL. Consequently, the rapid assessment was conducted to establish a well-built information base to inform on the factors behind this phenomenon, the supply and demand forces, the identity of the traffickers, types and characteristics of trafficked boys and girls and provide a basis for designing appropriate National, local and community level interventions aimed at stemming the problem.

This study adopted the 2000 Palermo Protocol definition of trafficking in children as thus:

*“Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation where exploitation includes at minimum, prostitution, other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (Palermo protocol, 2000).*

### 1.2 Objectives of the survey

#### Overall Objective

The overall objective of the rapid assessment was to collect data on trafficking in boys and girls in Uganda with ultimate goal of designing interventions and policies for addressing child trafficking in Uganda.

#### Specific Objectives

1. To collect in-depth information both secondary and primary data on trafficking of boys and girls in Uganda to determine the nature and the magnitude of the problem.
2. To determine factors that lead to and sustain trafficking of boys and girls including child soldiers in and from Uganda.
3. To review and identify gaps in policy, legislative framework and capacities of efforts to combat trafficking of children in Uganda.
4. Collect information on the methods of recruitment and factors fuelling trafficking and hazards faced by child soldiers in war-torn northern Uganda.
5. To make specific recommendations for the design and implementation of the programme of support to the TBP.

### 1.3 Area of study

The research was conducted in five districts of Uganda:

- (i) Busia Town in eastern Uganda at the border with

Kenya. There is a long history of trafficking of boys and girls across the borders of both countries for use of children in homes as domestic workers (CDWs), odd jobs like petty trade, in lodges and bars as attendants, cross-border trade and smuggling as well as CSEC.

- (ii) Pader district is located in the middle of the armed conflict area in Northern Uganda where conscription and abduction of children into servitude, as child soldiers and across to Sudan has taken place.
- (iii) Kalangala district made up of 80 islands and located in Lake Victoria serves as entry points to other islands and mainland of Tanzania and Kenya; it can be described as a rural setting as well. Cases of children, especially girls being trafficked from the mainland particularly from the districts of Masaka, Rakai and Mbarara for sexual purpose, fishing and servitude have been informally reported.
- (iv) Masaka district has history of supplying other districts, particularly Kampala and Kalangala with children for CSEC and domestic work. Several children found on the streets of Kampala claim to originate from Masaka. It is also the district that recorded the first cases of HIV/AIDS and has been hard hit by the epidemics. The district has a rural and urban setting. Kampala City/district, which is both the administrative and commercial centre of the Country, is the main receiving area of trafficked children. It has the highest recorded cases of the WFCL.

Map of Uganda



## 1.4 Methodologies and data collection

### 1.4.1 Study Design

The assessment study was cross-sectional, employing mainly qualitative methods of data collection. The Cross sectional element was aimed at obtaining data from

multiple sources including where possible, boys and girls who have been trafficked, law enforcement, labour and immigration departments, and local leaders.

### 1.4.2 Literature review

Secondary information was collected and reviewed from available relevant reports such as studies and surveys of IPEC and other relevant data on child labour, armed conflict, trafficking and other related areas. Places visited for the literature review include among others Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs including departments of Immigration and Police. Other places include Makerere University, Save the Children, UNICEF, ANPPCAN, World Vision, research centres. Internet resources, media reviews and newspaper reports were also used. This was helpful in developing a comprehensive interview guide and questionnaires used during the rapid assessment exercise.

### 1.4.3 Data collection

Primary data was collected using structured and non-structured questionnaires. The study used individual interviews, focus group discussions, short questionnaires, in-depth case studies, field observations and community conferencing. The use of various research tools was aimed at collecting hidden, illegal and activities of criminal nature that are associated with the practice of child trafficking. Consent of respondents and were sought before conducting interviews. Confidentiality of respondents and informants both on children and adults during data collection was extremely respected.

Thus the following methods were used in collecting data.

#### a) Individual interviews

Formal and informal personal interviews were used to collect primary data on child trafficking issues. An interview guide was administered to key informants. The main aim was to garner deeper insights regarding the intricacies of child trafficking including child soldiers.

#### b) Focus group discussions (FGDs)

These were held with former victims of child trafficking and WFCL, as well as purposively selected members of the study population including parents and local leaders. These gave an insight into the forms and dynamics of trafficking and WFCL. The team held discussions with street children, children trapped in WFCL including domestic work, drug abuse, and employment bureaus. A total of six FGDs with 6-8 participants each were conducted per district, (2 with current victims, 2 with former and withdrawn children and with 2 key adult informants).

#### c) Short questionnaires

These were used to obtain information on children engaged in WFCL and corroborate it with information obtained through interviews. This again constituted primary sources of data particularly focusing on parents, guardians and relatives of affected children. An interview schedule was administered to the selected children respondents and these included children found participating in worst forms of child labour and were not primarily born in that area. Those children found working and born in that area were

excluded from the primary respondents but served as key informants.

#### **d) In-depth case studies**

In-depth case studies of victims of child trafficking and people involved in trafficking were carried out.

#### **e) Field observations**

In addition to data collection in the field, observations of children, places of work and accomplices of child trafficking were made to better understand the nature and complexity of child trafficking.

#### **f) Community conferencing**

Community meetings were used to corroborate data collected in the field where high instances of child trafficking were reported such as Lambu and Lukaya landing sites, Nyedo town and Kyamulibwa in Masaka district; others were held in Busia and Kampala districts. These meetings validated the findings and suggested recommendations on concrete actions to be undertaken to address trafficking in the country.

#### **1.4.4 Training of research team and pre-testing of research instruments**

Prior to the field survey, the research team was trained and research instruments were pilot-tested among a few selected respondents in Wakiso district. Key concepts were translated into the local languages for easy understanding of child trafficking issues.

### **1.5 Data management and analysis**

Editing of field notes from individual respondents, key informant interviews and focus group discussions would be done at the end of each day. Quantitative data was analysed using CSpPro statistical package to establish frequency distributions and descriptive statistics where necessary. These were interpreted to make comparisons, establish trends, and proportions after which conclusions were drawn. Tables and graphs were generated to inform quantitative data analysis.

Qualitative data analysis was analysed through a process of data reduction (structuring, organising and streamlining the data), looking for groupings, themes and relationships, using visual data displays and drawing and verifying conclusions.

### **1.6 Population sample for the study**

The assessment study population included a total of 245 child respondents 67 key informants. Non-random techniques were used to select key informants and participants for the focus group discussions. The latter techniques were very fundamental in generating information on respondents' deeper insight regarding issues of child trafficking and their perceptions on the nature of the problem. To help focus the study in terms of locations and topics of research, the study team listed all people to be interviewed in categories.

Snowballing is an additional tool that was used to iden-

tify and locate victims of child trafficking including child soldiers.

The targeted sample of the study was 300 respondents. However, 250 respondents were covered due to time constraints and sensitivity and hidden nature of child trafficking.

In addition to the primary respondents, a number of agencies were visited to collect information on child trafficking at national, district and local levels as indicated below.

#### **National level**

Government departments namely MoGLSD (Child Labour Unit, labour officers/inspectors, probation and welfare department, community development, youth and children department, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs (immigration), Police (CID, Community Affairs, and Child Protection Unit), army, intelligence officers, and Interpol Police. Employers' and workers' organisations were also visited.

#### **United Nations' agencies**

UN agencies including ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNAFRI were visited. International NGOs which include World Vision-KURET, IOM, Save the Children in Uganda, as well as local NGOs including UYDEL, AP-PCAN, UCRNN, KIN, WAYS, Youth Aid, and Uganda Children Centre were also visited.

#### **▶ District level**

Probation officers, Education Officers community development officers, youth and children, immigration officers, Police (CID Community Affairs, Child protection unit), army, RDCs, intelligence officers and fisheries officers.

#### **▶ Border entry points**

Immigration officers, Intelligence officers, local leaders, policemen, customs and clearing officers, cross-border businessmen and market vendors.

#### **▶ Local levels**

Police, local leaders, church and other Faith-based organisations, Business community, transporters agencies, teachers, employment bureaus, and trade unions, market associations, internally displaced people's camps, children and youth rehabilitation centres and human services, informal networks of youth groups.

#### **▶ Brothels, Pimps, health facilities,**

**bars, video** hall, lodges, food vendors and restaurants parents groups, family members, women and youth groups, local clinics, CBOs and civil society groups.

#### **Children and parents**

Former child soldiers and other victims of trafficking and children engaged in WFCL, parents, bar owners and street and slum children.

### **1.7 Problems encountered during the study**

1. Fewer girls were interviewed compared to boys be

cause they could not easily be reached. Others were busy working and their employers interrupted the sessions and complained greatly.

2. The study found a general lack of understanding of the concept of trafficking among the key informants and a lot of time was spent clarifying what constitutes trafficking.
3. Non-Cooperation by some key informants.
4. The study coincided with a season when child sacrifice was reported to be high. This discouraged many would be informants from divulging information on child trafficking issues.
5. Movements on Kalangala islands were hampered by the high costs of water travel because the islands are scattered in Lake Victoria. However, some landing sites were approached from other districts for easy access.
6. Children were found to be more informed about child trafficking as compared to adults and law enforcement officers.

## CHAPTER TWO

# Literature review and practical measures addressing child trafficking in Uganda

### 2.1 World estimates of child trafficking

Child trafficking has become a serious human problem attracting worldwide attention. Trafficking of children violates the inherent right of a child to grow up in a protective environment and the right to be free from all forms of abuse and exploitation. It violates the universal human right to life, liberty, and freedom from slavery in all its forms. World wide, estimates of children in unconditional worst forms of child labour stand at 8.4 million, this includes child trafficking (1.2 million); forced and bonded labour (5.7million); armed conflict as fighters (0.3million); prostitution and pornography (1.8 million); and illicit activities (0.6million)<sup>1</sup>. The US report 2005, on human trafficking estimates that of the 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are children. The reports focus on trans-national trafficking in persons, but avail no data on millions of children around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders.

The alarming enslavement of people for purposes of labour exploitation, often in their own countries, is a form of human trafficking that can be hard to track from afar. It may not involve the same criminal organizations profiting from trans-national trafficking for sexual exploitation; more often individuals are guilty of, for example, enslaving one domestic servant or hundreds of unpaid, forced workers at a factory.

Unfortunately no precise estimate of the number of children trafficked in Africa exists overall. The UNICEF report 2004, estimated that 200,000 children are trafficked per year in West Africa. In 2002, it was estimated that 2,800 to 3,000 girls were engaged in prostitution in South Africa many of them from Angola, Cameroon, Zambia, Kenya and Uganda<sup>2</sup>. It is also estimated that 2,000- 6,000 young girls aged 14-18 years are trafficked to Italy annually.

Few reports and literature appear to be in place to show the magnitude of cross-border trafficking. Whereas anecdotal information indicates so, the GTZ report indicated that trafficking in East Africa occurs at two levels, firstly there is internal trafficking of children and young women from rural to urban areas for domestic work and prostitution. Secondly, on an international level, there is trafficking of women to other African countries, the Middle East and Europe for prostitution and to the Middle East predominantly for domestic labour<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> SIMPOC 2002

<sup>2</sup>See Hand book for parliamentarians' number 7 UNICEF 2004 p,65.

<sup>3</sup>GTZ (2003): Study on trafficking in women in East Africa.

According to Hon. Bakoko Bakoru, former Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), "More than 10 million women and children are trafficked to Europe and Asia for commercial sex. Trafficking is also present in Uganda, although not many are aware of its existence. The lure of prosperity or of financial security for young girls establishes fertile ground for trafficking of women and several young girls have fallen prey to the vice of those who have authority over them"<sup>4</sup>.

### 2.2 Trends, nature and magnitude of child trafficking in Uganda

Trafficking of children certainly exists in Uganda; though the time when the practice started cannot be established in the available literature. The practice generally has been growing considerably in the last 16 years having gained prominence due to LRA insurgency in northern Uganda for the last 20 years. Victims of child trafficking, majority of whom are girls may be deceived or tricked by an adult. Others are kidnapped, drugged, bribed with money/gifts and moved using force. Children are trafficked for different purposes and many are involved in hazardous forms of labour including commercial sex, domestic labour, commercial agriculture, fishing, mining, armed conflict, drug trafficking, and urban informal sector activities including street children and other forms of exploitation including child sacrifice and arranged marriages<sup>5</sup>.

Overall, the status of working children, especially those who have been trafficked is not well documented. Lack of statistics on the prevalence of worst forms of child labour, especially in the rural areas has been a major setback in the efforts to comprehensively address the problem. The problem of child trafficking is estimated to grow worse, particularly as AIDS and other diseases orphan increasing numbers of children in west, east and central Africa<sup>6</sup>. The literature review has showed that no particular lump summation figure, routes and destinations on trafficking have been cited, save for the children who have been abducted and taken to Sudan, Kenya, Egypt, Middle East, especially Dubai and Europe. Reports so far written have been done piecemeal and have not attached a figure of estimate on this hidden problem of trafficking.

<sup>4</sup>Paper presented on trafficking in women and children: the situation in Africa, Workshop report 2003

<sup>5</sup>ECPAT: Brochure on END child prostitution, pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes

<sup>6</sup>The Christian Science Monitor Journal, Jonathan Cohen, researcher with Human Rights Watch and author of the report "Borderline Slavery: child trafficking in West Africa April 28, 2003.

Uganda qualifies as a “sending/source” and “transit” country for children from Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and less as a ‘receiving/destination’ for children mainly for labour and sexual exploitation. A report by US department of Labour (USDOL) has indicated that Uganda is considered to be a source and destination country for trafficking of persons<sup>7</sup>. There is evidence of abducted children being trafficked across the border to Southern Sudan by the Lord’s Resistance Army<sup>8</sup>. Internal trafficking within the country constitutes the largest percentage of trafficking in Uganda.

### 2.3 Targets, Purpose and Destinations of child trafficking.

Available literature shows that child traffickers target children for several purposes and destinations all of which are linked to the worst forms of child labour. These include;

#### a) Child soldiers

There has been large-scale reporting on abduction and recruitment of in and out of school children into rebel ranks to replenish fighting forces, maintain logistical bases and carry looted goods and ammunitions in Northern Uganda for the LRA rebel force. According to UNICEF, 2006, between 25,000-30,000 children are believed to have been abducted since 1990. The numbers of children abducted, indeed fluctuate according to the military situation<sup>9</sup>.

Similarly, a report by international agencies indicates that of the abducted children over 8,000 are still unaccounted for and only 23,000 have returned and 60 cases of abducted children were reported to have been killed in combat<sup>10</sup>.

#### b) Child domestic labour (CDL)

In Uganda, the use of children for domestic work is a widespread practice<sup>11</sup>. Child domestic labour is considered to be a hidden problem, largely beyond the scope of conventional labour market survey methods, (ITC; 2000, Child Action; 2000; ILO; 2002) whereby employers mainly from urban areas recruit children from rural areas through family, friends and contacts. In other circumstances parents send children to work in homes of well to do relatives under the guise of being provided with help such as feeding, shelter, clothing, education, etc (Child Action; 2000, ANPPCAN; 2004).

Children perform domestic tasks in the home of a third party or employer that are exploitative. All studies reviewed do not give a precise figure on the numbers of children involved in child domestic labour (CDL).

This problem appears to affect the largest proportion of children affected by trafficking both internally and across borders. The Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (2003) estimated the total number of working children overall aged 5-17 years to be 1.5 million. There is also evidence that there is a proportionate increase in the number of CDWs by age and number. (UDHS 2000/1, UBOS 2002, UNICEF 1996, FIDA 1999, WAYS 2001)<sup>12</sup>

Child domestic workers are considered the most difficult to reach. These are invisible child labourers partly due to the dilemma of respecting the privacy of homes, which makes it difficult to identify and protect children trapped in exploitation. The majority of trafficked CDWs are girls because domestic chores are believed to be female activities, girls drop out of school earlier than boys. Girls are more obedient and honest and therefore less likely to rebel or run away with domestic property. The most vulnerable victims are the orphans and others who come from extremely poor families, single parent families; some may have been abandoned and others are destitute, mainly coming from central Uganda (Masaka, Wakiso and Luwero and South and Eastern Uganda, including those from Busoga and Toro areas. WAYS (2004; 16) Children involved in Domestic work often fall victim to other forms of exploitation and suffering including homelessness, drug abuse, child prostitution and delinquency.

#### c) Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) as one of the worst forms of child labour is considered to be one of the hidden, complex and corrosive form of child labour where trafficking of children has been identified to be persistent. The problem of CSEC is on the increase (Kafuko 2002, Mwaka 1998). A study conducted by ILO on CSEC in 2004 in Uganda covering child prostitution, pornography and trafficking for WFCL revealed that 12,000 children mainly girls between ages 14-17 years were affected in the country<sup>13</sup>. The ratio of girls to boys was nine girls to one boy; though the number of the boys involved is reported to be on the increase (ILO, 2004). Similar reports conducted by Ministry of Finance<sup>14</sup>, Women and Youth services (WAYS) and Platform for Labour Action (PLA) show that many children are still trafficked and conscripted into prostitution and many cases go unreported. A retrospective study on violence against girls in Uganda conducted by UYDEL in 2006, established that 10% of 500 girls in Kampala slums have been trafficked for sexual purposes and domestic work<sup>15</sup>.

In a report that was recently released by Women and Youth Services 2003, findings showed that the majority of children involved in commercial sex in truck driver stop-over towns are between 8-18 years old. In the sample 143

<sup>7</sup>See US report on Human trafficking, 2005

<sup>8</sup>See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2002: Uganda, Section 1b, 6f

<sup>9</sup>UNICEF notes that the figures are estimates because of double counting, under-numeration, poor record keeping re-abduction of the same children, transfers between reception centres; not all children pass through the same reception centre. (Allen, T., Personal communication, UNICEF/ USAID research on re integration.)

<sup>10</sup>The New Vision, June 22, 2006 pg 15.

<sup>11</sup>See ILO-IPEC, Child Labour in Uganda, ix, 30, 36.

<sup>12</sup>Platform for labour action (2003) Rapid Assessment on child domestic workers in Uganda pg2

<sup>13</sup>[http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/2004\\_ug\\_sexexp\\_en.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/2004_ug_sexexp_en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup>See Ministry of Finance, Planning and economic Development; Uganda participatory Assessment Processes (UPAAP, Kasensero site study pg. 17

<sup>15</sup>UYDEL 2006: Retrospective study on violence against girls in Uganda

respondents along the five truck stop-over towns, 97% of children involved in CSEC were female and 3% were boys. Most of the girls are school dropouts who dropped out due to lack of school fees or orphanhood. Stop-over towns on the trans-Africa highway; from Rwanda to Kenya through Uganda indicate a mixture of tribes along the route to be affected by CSEC mainly the Basosga, Baganda, Nyankole, Bagishu, Rwandese and Samia children. Children between the ages of 13 and 18, mainly street girls, former domestic workers who have left abusive work environments, and students at hostels, are targeted for commercial sexual exploitation<sup>16</sup>.

#### **d) Street children**

Government estimates put the number of children living on the streets to over 10,000; the majority of these are males<sup>17</sup>. One thousand are estimated to be living on the streets full-time<sup>18</sup>. NGOs put the number slightly over 20,000 street children and slum youth; estimated to be living in urban centres and cities of Uganda. Kampala, the capital city is has the highest number followed by Mbale, Masaka, Mbarara and Kabale. Majority of these are boys with a ratio of 7 boys to 3 girls (Kasirye, Light foot 2002).

A 1999 study by Friends of Children Association (FOCA) estimated that 5,000 children beg, wash cars, scavenge, work in the commercial sex industry, and sell small items on the streets of Kampala and street children in nature are child labourers. Many of these have come to Kampala with the support of a peer or an adult who may be a relative or a person known to the family who wanted them to sell their merchandise or look after their homes but the children later ran away.

#### **e) Informal and cross-border trade**

Child trafficking has also been thriving in this sector as well. Children continue to be involved in informal trade and other illicit activities including hawking, working in markets and on road sides, smuggling and drug trafficking working as conduits as a way of benefiting adults. Many children are brought to the border towns of Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania and in the cities of Jinja and Kampala to smuggle goods across borders and do illicit activities including watching over merchandise, hawking and this is very common and regularly reported in the local press<sup>19</sup>. Traders prefer to deal with children because they find it cheaper and safer to employ them instead of adults who are considered crafty and are easily noticed by the Uganda Revenue Authority official and Police.

A study on "Child Labour and Cross border Trade" by ILO-IPEC (2004), revealed that 35% of children representing 342 children involved in cross boarder and related activities were trafficked and majority were in the 14-17

age brackets. This is indeed a very high figure in terms of child trafficking. At the Mutukula border (a district bordering Tanzania and Uganda), children are used for commercial sex, manual labour and smuggling of merchandise (paraffin and rice from Tanzania), where they are relatively cheaper. Businessmen use these children, some of them from Tanzania, because they know that children are less likely to be interrogated<sup>20</sup>.

#### **f) Agricultural plantations**

This is another activity that has perpetuates child trafficking and exploitation. Globally, child labour is twice as high in rural areas as in urban areas. In Uganda where majority of the population (75% out of 27 million)<sup>21</sup> lives in rural areas, 11 million people are engaged in agriculture and of these 30% are children<sup>22</sup>. Children involved in commercial agriculture often begin working at the age of four. Similarly, in Uganda, commercial agriculture is mainly practised in the rural areas where 91% of children work on tea, rice, coffee, sugarcane and tobacco estates (UBOS; 2003).

Most trafficked children are employed by the small enterprises and out growers and their tasks range from cutting sugar canes, picking tea, coffee, beans and tobacco, slashing and spraying chemicals, in other words working in hazardous condition. This practice of exploitation of children on the out-grower gardens have mainly affected trafficked children from the war zone in northern Uganda and the populous districts of east and southern Uganda; local children have also equally been affected by this WFCL in the plantations.

#### **g) Fishing**

Fishing has become a lucrative activity in the economy of Uganda. Nearly, 750,000 of people around Lake Victoria benefit from fish-related activities. Fishing contributes close to 15% of Uganda Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 20% of the total exports. According to a study conducted by ILO-IPEC<sup>23</sup>, 80 percent of child workers employed in the fishing industry in Uganda were employed in their locality, implying that 20 percent of them were trafficked from other areas. Among child workers in the fishing sector, aged 15-17 years, 83 percent were not related to their employers while those aged 10-14 years, 63 percent of the male children and 77 percent of the females were related to their employers. This shows that children are internally and deliberately trafficked in fishing communities.

## **2.4 Factors leading to child trafficking in Uganda**

### **Push factors**

Several factors have been documented to be pushing children into trafficking. The major factors identified were

<sup>16</sup>See Roger Kasirye, "Sexual Risk Behaviours and AIDS Knowledge among Kampala Street Girls: Implication for Service Providers - A Research Experience" (paper presented at the Africa Regional ISSBD Workshop, Lusaka, Zambia, April 8-12, 1996).

<sup>17</sup>See Orphans and vulnerable children policy 2005

<sup>18</sup>See The Republic of Uganda, National Child Labour Policy, 8. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2002: Uganda.

<sup>19</sup>ILO-IPEC (2004): Child labours and Cross-border trade.

<sup>20</sup>The Weekly observer, July, 5 2006 pg 3

<sup>21</sup>MGLSD, 2002:3

<sup>22</sup>ILO-IPEC 2005: Economic study on child labour wages and productivity in the fishing and construction industries in Uganda.

<sup>23</sup>ILO-IPEC: Education perspectives on the impact of HIV/AIDS pande mic on child labour in Uganda, 20004 pg 7

HIV/AIDS, Poverty, conflict and wars as explained below.

### a) Impact of HIV/AIDS

Notwithstanding the reported decline in the HIV prevalence rate from 18.8 percent in early 1990s to 6.5<sup>24</sup> percent, AIDS related cases have remained high in Uganda. More than 1 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda (MoGLSD 2004). The inference here is that children will continue to be orphaned far into the future unless further gains are made in reducing the HIV prevalence.

The problem of orphans in Uganda has continued to increase, despite efforts by the government and civil society to avert this phenomenon. The orphanhood crisis is now estimated at 1.8 million orphans (MoGLSD 2002). According to the UNAIDS global AIDS report 2004, currently in Uganda over 900,000 children below 17 years are estimated to have lost one or both parents to AIDS alone.

The traditional extended family system that had absorbed the brunt of this impact is slowly losing meaning, given the fact that majority of people who care for orphans are old and live below the poverty line making children far worse off and more vulnerable to trafficking by exploiters. There is also a high dependency on the surviving parents, who may also be sick and unemployed, with inadequate social assistance thus increasing the economic burden in homes.

Findings of studies conducted by ILO-IPEC on commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) 2004 and the Urban Informal Sector study in Uganda indicated that as a result of their circumstances, many orphaned girls and boys are forced to migrate to urban areas and landing sites in search of work opportunities and end up in prostitution and other illicit activities. In a related study on child labour and HIV/AIDS in Uganda, 60 percent of migrant girls and boys were affected by HIV/AIDS and migrated due to deaths, search for jobs, security reasons and peer pressure.

### b) Poverty

According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 2002, 38 percent of Uganda's population live below the poverty line; corresponding to nearly 9.8 million people. The need to supplement family income, to be self-reliant, to pay school fees and homelessness have contributed to pushing children into CSEC.

Trafficking of children in the cities to work as domestic servants partly stems from the long standing African tradition of parents from poor rural families sending their children to go live and work with wealthier families often in urban centres. This was considered a form of fostering arrangement, but the practice has been exploited by traffickers leading to an increase in the number of children engaging in child domestic labour<sup>26</sup>. It is the normaliza-

tion of this cultural tradition of child domestic labour that is a barrier to ending this form of trafficking in girls. ILO-IPEC (2004), pg 61-63; ILO (2002).

### c) Conflict and wars

Increased conflicts and wars in Uganda have led to a sizable number of children trafficked and involved in combat. Amnesty International 2005, observed that the use of child soldiers by the Lord's Resistance Army is part of an increasing worldwide pattern of reliance by states and non-governmental entities on underage combatants. At least 300,000 under-18s are currently engaged in active combat worldwide. To date, more than 8,000 children remain unaccounted for.

All the studies reviewed on the internal armed conflict in Northern and Eastern Uganda noted that large numbers of children have been abducted (forcefully), trafficked and conscripted into the ranks of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as child soldiers, porters /slaves and as wives of commanders.

UNICEF<sup>27</sup> notes that both boys and girls between the ages 9-16 years are particularly at risk of abduction. A study done by ILO-IPEC<sup>28</sup> stated that the common age at the time of abduction is 14-17 years. In these circumstances children are subjected to the worst forms of child labour and abuse. It is reported that children are targeted because unlike older men, boys are submissive and take instructions without questions unlike the older men, while girls are desirable to the LRA since it is felt that they are less likely to have HIV. One district leader noted that children were being traded for guns and uniforms for the rebels; others were being sold to government of Sudan and Somalia<sup>29</sup>.

By using children as soldiers the Lord's Resistance Army is violating International Humanitarian Law. The LRA specifically violates Article 4 (3) (C) under Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. *Children who have not attained the age of 15 years shall neither be recruited in the armed forces or group nor allowed to take part in hostilities.* This protocol relates to the protection of victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts. There are many other international standards and conventions that are being violated, such as C. 182, CRC and its Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

### Pull factors

Other factors noted in the literature review leading to trafficking (pull factors) of children together with push factors above include:

<sup>24</sup>A Rapid Assessment on the drivers of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic and effectiveness of preventions in Uganda 2006

<sup>25</sup>MoGLSD and the Uganda AIDS Commission Situation analysis of orphans in Uganda, orphanages and their households (2002): Caring for their future-today.

<sup>26</sup>GTZ (2003) Study on Trafficking in women in East Africa page .3.

<sup>27</sup>UNICEF 2005: Report on the situation of children and women in the republic of Uganda

<sup>28</sup>ILO-IPEC 2004: Report on thematic study on Child labour and armed conflict in Uganda Pg 55, 58 &59.

<sup>29</sup>Musa Eweru in the New Visions, Newspapers, Kampala, Jul 23, 1000 Teso Children in captivity.

### a) Inadequate legislation and poor law enforcement

There is laxity of police and immigration control officers and this has been cited as one of the enabling factors for trafficking of girls to thrive in Uganda and East Africa. Luyima (2001; 9)<sup>30</sup> noted inadequate expertise in the area of child labour inspection and weaknesses of the measures and interventions to address trafficking in Uganda may have facilitated the problem of child labour. Law reform has also been very slow to include all-purpose, needs and support programmes for trafficked children.

### b) Porous borders and migration patterns

The Uganda borders are so porous, complicated by ethnic groups living across borders of more than one country thus impinging on the traditional migration patterns of the local people especially in the events of famines and droughts. Many times trafficking of children is confused with migration patterns and quite often children are taken advantage of by exploiters. One district leader observed that:

*"I am a bit reluctant to use the word 'trafficking' because of the circumstances. I would say this is temporary migration. There is no coercion or kidnapping, it is voluntary. "The girls are brought by the Iteso who have lived in Karamoja for long and are therefore acquainted with them," Nyalulu says. However, he does not rule out the possibility that there could be other people taking advantage of the girls' plight to exploit them"*<sup>31</sup>.

### c) Inadequate information

Parents, children and local leaders are almost ignorant about child trafficking and its risks. In Karamoja for instance, children have been sold in open cattle markets, where people know the traffickers, but sometimes they are considered by the public as philanthropists so the perpetrators have not been prosecuted. For example in Teso Police noted that:

*"Many parents unwittingly sell their children, to people who promise work, education, and shelter for children but instead use them as sex slaves"*<sup>32</sup>.

This case illustrates the above point further:

*"These Policemen are spoiling our business," remarks a man who has come to pick a girl. He looks restless. Mama Igaraman is conspicuous. Everybody's eyes seem to be glued on her. This tall, slender, middle-aged innocent-looking woman is famous for connecting the Karimojong girls to the locals, a job she accepts gladly. "Yes, I help the girls to come. I give them work in my home so they can have a livelihood. They come when they desperately need food. I don't sell the girls as people allege. You could call me a Good Samaritan because what I do is an act of goodwill "My intentions for these girls are good. I give them food, which they regularly send home to their relatives. Since January, I have had 11 girls but seven have since returned home after hearing, over the radio, that they would be*

<sup>30</sup>Harriet Luyima position paper on child labour 2003.

<sup>31</sup>Alice Emasu and Harriette Onyalla Child trafficking or good will article in the New vision news paper, Kampala, Jul 23, 2006 (New Vision/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX)

<sup>32</sup>See red Pepper august6, 2006. Page 4.

*arrested, Mama Igaraman says"*<sup>33</sup>

### d) Child sacrifice

Children in the country have been abducted and trafficked for ritual practices and sacrificed for quick wealth, building construction and other material gains.

There are also reports that some children's organs are removed for sale for medical experiments. Newspaper reports have indicated a proportionate rise in the number of children being abducted and sacrificed for ritual practices, especially in central Uganda, but reporting on this is sporadic and only after major incidents has occurred. Children are either kidnapped or parents are told to surrender their children promising them better life. The Sun Newspaper in Uganda reported that reports on child abduction and trafficking are no unique to Uganda

Preliminary findings by police on child sacrifice in Uganda, local authorities and British investigators indicate that the so-called miracle babies are abducted from poor families and sold to rich but infertile couples. Others are sacrificed in ritual in the quest of wealth<sup>34</sup>. A television discussion on WBS on 18 August noted that police had 28 cases of children who were abducted and still missing.

### e) Cheap labour and exploitation

The girl child in urban centres is lured into employment in the lucrative entertainment industry. They work in hotels and restaurants, guesthouses, disco, bars, casinos, local brew shops, etc. The owners of such places use young girls to attract more customers. The negotiation skills of these young girls are underdeveloped and in some cultures many men believe that if they have younger sexual partners they become younger and that their chances of acquiring HIV/AIDS will be lower, hence increasing demand for children. The demand for child sex is aggravated by the presence of military troops or of public work projects, tourist centres and client preference for young children in the context of HIV/AIDS<sup>35</sup>.

An NGO called Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL<sup>36</sup>), started a programme supported by ILO-IPEC 2001-2005 in Kampala to withdraw and rehabilitate CSEC. (UYDEL 2003-2005). Their report indicated that such children have a lot of problems stemming from the places of origin or their families; fathers are drunk and stepparents mistreat them. Fathers were unable to provide for their families and some were staying with single parents. Others were attracted to towns by their friends when they visited and shared the suffering they were going through; their friends accepted to go with them and work in bars, lodges and slum places where they were eventually introduced to prostitution and drug misuse.

<sup>33</sup> New Vision July 3, 2006 pg 2 by Alice Emasu and Harriette Onyalla Child trafficking or good will article in the New vision news paper, Kampala, Jul 23, 2006 (New Vision/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX)

<sup>34</sup> The Sun Newspaper, November 11, 2004 p.3

<sup>35</sup>Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) 2003, 2005project reports for Prevention and withdrawal of CCSEC and

<sup>36</sup>See Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) ILO-IPEC reports 20003, 2005

## f) Cattle rustling and dysfunctional families

In a community where orphans head the households due to HIV/AIDS, and in areas plagued by wars and cattle rustling, the social support system weakens due to increase in demand for social services (health care, education etc.). This may escalate the poverty levels, inequalities and pave way for increased crime and social instability. Due to poor parental guidance and lack of employable skills among children, they are more likely to engage in the worst forms of child labour, thus increasing their vulnerability to HIV.

Following the launch of a programme by the government of Uganda to rid Karamoja region and the surrounding districts of illegal guns used in cattle rustling and thugs; internal trafficking in girls is now booming in the cattle markets in Katakwi district in the Eastern Uganda and has made the whole region desperate due to lack of alternative survival. It as been revealed that women are selling their children to fend for their families after their husbands fled ahead of the disarmament exercise in the region. Each child (12-18 years) is sold in an open market at 3,000 shillings each to work in gardens and as housemaids, but these children are later turned into sex slaves<sup>37</sup>.

## h) Early marriage and sex slavery

Early marriage is also a common practice-affecting child in Uganda as a country with one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and child mothers. Fr. Joseph Ocom, Omagoro Parish said

*"The Itesot import the girls "to become potential house wives. "Though most rescue efforts have focused on the girl child, Katakwi officials are informed that there are some Karimojong boys languishing in Teso households"*<sup>38</sup>.

## General observations

There are indications that many push and pull factors exist and often interact with one another within the enterprises and the wider community to perpetuate child trafficking. These include orphanhood, school drop outs, general poverty, seasonality of activities, children who are more available than adults for short-term and part time work and children hired to assist their families.

According to UNICEF (2004)<sup>39</sup>, causes for trafficking in children may include poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and low social status for the girl child, lack awareness, gender inequality and discrimination in legal, social and economic terms, immaturity among girls to make quick money, war and corruption.

Literature continues to show that internal and cross-border trafficking is largely demand driven meeting an unmet need for sex tourism and exploitative cheap labour. Children are easier to abuse, actually not cheaper, but less assertive, less able to demand for their rights than adults, work long hours with less food, poor accommodation and

almost no benefits and work in conditions that risk their physical and mental health.

Other factors that facilitate child trafficking include attraction of perceived higher standards of living elsewhere, lack of employment opportunities, organized crime, violence against women and children, discrimination against women, government. It was also noted that corruption, political instability and armed conflict exacerbate child trafficking.

## 2.5 Perpetuators of child trafficking in Uganda

Traffickers of children often target young ones using ruthless, creative, tricks and coercion to win the uninformed victims. They promise the children a good life and unsuspecting parents including employment, marriage and educational opportunities. Some of these are known. Trafficking of children involves a whole range of players who facilitate the process, from recruiting agents to corrupt border guards and transport providers to 'relay' receivers and forgers of false documents<sup>40</sup>.

A trafficker is described as a person who makes money or gain in some way from the transporting and the exploitation of children within the country and across borders to another country. However, perpetrators involved in trafficking differ depending on purposes of trafficking. According to GTZ, not all girls who migrate to urban centres are trafficked. It is evident that a lot of the movement of children from rural to urban areas in Uganda is not facilitated by a third party and as such is not trafficking. Many children move on their own to urban centres to earn income, where they may be vulnerable to abuse, especially commercial sexual exploitation.

Interestingly, studies done on child domestic workers, fishing and plantations many times fail to indicate the perpetrators of the practice and migration patterns of these children (GTZ 2003, PLA, 2003. WAYS 2003, FIDA 2001).

### a) Traffickers for domestic services

According to ILO-IPEC 2004<sup>41</sup>, many recruiters of children into domestic service are informal 'middlemen/women' who find a child on behalf of an employer or an employer on behalf of a child's family. Adult domestic workers may seek out children to work in the same household.

As in most forms of child labour, parents and children also seek 'opportunities' for the child either directly with an employer (who often include extended family friends/acquaintances) or via recruiter/employers. This is in agreement with a report by GTZ (2003)<sup>42</sup> which acknowledges that in some cases movement of children is facilitated by a family friend or acquaintance, thus a person in a position of trust. Many such children are then kept in highly

<sup>37</sup>The New Vision July 3, 2006 pg 1

<sup>38</sup>Uganda Police: Smash Girl Trafficking "http://allafrica.com/publishers, The Monitor News Paper (Kampala) July 11, 2006

<sup>39</sup>Child protection: A Hand book for parliamentarians No.7

<sup>40</sup>ECPAT: Brochure on End child prostitution, pornography and trafficking.

<sup>41</sup>Helping Hands or shackled lives: Understanding child domestic labour and responses to it pg 37, 2005

<sup>42</sup>GTZ (2003): Study on trafficking of women in East Africa. Pg 3

exploitative conditions of work in domestic work or prostitution.

The ILO report on the “Sectoral study of child labour and commercial sex exploitation, 2004<sup>43</sup>” indicates areas where informal networks of those already working children in urban centres “connect” fellow children from very poor families especially in rural areas to find employment in urban centres. Mwaka illustrates this point further by citing examples from Kabarole where a strong sense of tribal belonging and kinship among poor urban Batooro Migrants do assist their kinsmen to reach Kampala and find employment.

According to WAYS<sup>44</sup>, child domestic workers get connected to employing families by people who grew up in the areas of origin and are now living in urban areas, parents themselves who look for employment for their children, domestic workers from the locality who entice and ‘steal’ their friends and relatives who come from the same areas or are known to these children.

### **b) Traffickers for CSEC**

It is indicated that friends and peers who are former or current sex workers play a big role in trafficking and influencing the conduct of children and such people promise children benefits, including money which ranked highest and clothing. ILO-IPEC, 2004<sup>45</sup> reported evidence of trafficking of children for sexual purposes across borders and within towns (Arua, Tororo, Kabale and Kasese) done by friends who were either former or current sex workers linked to pimps/gangs who in return pay them. This was also confirmed by the thematic study on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC, 2004) in Uganda that revealed that friends who at times benefit from the recruitment exercise persuade children into CSEC and get them customers. It was also indicated that children had a choice to either move within the same town or to the city (Kampala) for better opportunities.

There are also pimps and brothel owners who recruit children into this practice promising them fat pay if they work in bars and lodges. For children under the age of 12, it is invariably a family member who provides the child through giving/selling them into situations in which they will be sexually exploited. For children who are drawn into prostitution before the age of 18 and especially before the age of 16, abuses within the family/community seem to be significant precursors.

Some of the traffickers are known to the local communities. They may be leaders, including business men, senior army officers<sup>46</sup>, many parents unwittingly sell their children to businessmen, who promise work, education and shelter for the children, but instead use them as sex slaves.

<sup>43</sup>Sectoral study of Child labour and commercial sex exploitation, 2004 Commissioned by ILO-IPEC in Uganda.

<sup>44</sup>WAYS, Efforts to eliminate child domestic Labour 2004

<sup>45</sup>See The thematic study on Child Labour in Cross border trade, commissioned by ILO-IPEC, 2004

<sup>46</sup>The Red Pepper newspaper Sunday August6, 2006 reported that senior army man Brigadier Guuti had been implicated in illegal trafficking of young girls from Karamoja sub region in

### **c) Trafficking for Agriculture**

There is also evidence that commercial farmers are some of the biggest abusers of children’s rights in Uganda and are an impediment to Universal Primary Education (UPE)<sup>47</sup>. Sugarcane and rice out growers, and fishermen are the biggest receivers of trafficked children. Outgrowers, especially in areas of Kakira, Busede and Buyengo sub counties in Jinja employ children because they are more likely than adults to work for little pay.

### **e) Child soldiers**

Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)

During the past 20 years of conflict in Northern and Eastern parts of Uganda large numbers of children have been forcefully abducted and recruited into rebel ranks or used as slaves by the Lord’s Resistance Army LRA.

There is also evidence that children are still being abducted, raped and forcefully recruited as soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo with Congolese soldiers and police being the main perpetrators<sup>48</sup>. In April 2006, a tale of human trafficking and sex slavery involving sections of a local investor community as well as immigration officers were after the Uganda police intercepted and picked up two Asians in connection with human trafficking.

In the cattle markets of Moroto, some unscrupulous women collect girls in Matany Sub-county in Moroto District and transport them to Katakwi by bus. They are lined up in the market and their buyers mainly men come and pick up the most beautiful girls at 100,000-300,000 shillings. Men who pick these children are mostly bachelors and widowers. Some young girls transport them in two vehicles one of which belongs to a senior army officer, to places as far as Mbale, Jinja and Kampala. Another NGO report also implicated Ms Alice Lakwena a former warlord, in the child trafficking scam. Her sister, Doreen Adokorach, was said to be her contact. The chairperson of an NGO Adongo Laro Pece Women’s association, Lilly Odong, described the alarming rate at which children were disappearing from Gulu and the camps of internally displaced and feared that and some children were traced being taken to Kenya where she lives<sup>49</sup>.

### **Government forces**

Interestingly the Uganda people’s Defence forces (UPDF) has been implicated in the voluntary recruitment of children, in spite of the UDPF Act guides on the procedure for recruitment of people in the forces. A Uganda Human Rights Commission in 2004 noted that, 1004 children were estimated is active in militias’ armed forces<sup>50</sup>.

### **f) Trafficking for fishing**

A report by HUYS Link<sup>51</sup>, showed that employers in the fishing sector use children to carry out activities like sorting nets and food vending, because they can perform

<sup>47</sup>The New Vision, November 18, 2005 pg 8

<sup>48</sup>Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General: The Daily Monitor June 22, 2006.

<sup>49</sup>See the New vision news paper Wednesday, November 10, 2004 p.2

<sup>50</sup>Uganda human rights Commission, 2004 7th Annual report to parliament of Uganda, Kampala.

<sup>51</sup>HUYS Link (2003) Research report on child Labour in Katabi sub county and Entebbe municipality, Wakiso District

these duties faster. Many children living in fishing districts also work long hours under hazardous conditions; fishing and supporting fishermen in setting nets, washing, offloading goods (fire wood, timber and charcoal) and loading passengers out the boats. Other children work as waiters in restaurants, business attendants, house maids and sex workers.

## 2.6 Trafficking Networks and Routes

Trafficking both occurs from a poor rural community to the city for example, and across borders. Sexual exploitation of girls and boys in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become one of the major aspects of trans-national organized crime. Unlike drugs and guns, women and children can be sold multiple times and in multiple ways for profit, and the criminals receive less punishments and shorter sentences<sup>53</sup>.

In Eastern Africa for example, children are trafficked not only internally but also among the countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. In most cases, the children do not remember their real names or dates of birth. UNICEF, 2001<sup>54</sup> noted that anecdotal evidence also suggests that children from East Africa countries are being transferred from one district to another, moved between isolated and remote areas, or even shipped out of the country for training as soldiers and or for work in the sex industry.

According to the Red Pepper newspaper, 2006<sup>55</sup>, *“Some coordinating agents in Kampala are engaged in making quick money out of young children who are being sold to Arabs countries and Middle East. Sources say that some people have already entered into contracts with dealers in the Arab world for each person to export at least ten children a month at a cost of 3.5 million (Uganda Shillings) per child. The contractors are only interested in children under six years, the reason being that at this age, the children can never remember where they come from and who their parents were. Some children are then put under intensive military training to act as suicide bombers while others are turned into slaves on farms. Security has already busted one of their bases in Kajansi Lweza on Entebbe road”*.

Relatedly, the Monitor newspaper reported that *“Local sources told Daily Monitor the girls, usually between 12 and 17, are given away for anything between Shs3, 000 and Shs5, 000 by truck drivers who ply the Soroti-Moroto route. It is estimated that the Ocorimongin internally displaced camp (IDP) camp alone is home to some 15 Karimojong girls who do all sorts of work from gardening to brewing ajon a local brew). The LC1 Chairman for Ocorimongin, Mr Fabian Olokojo, said he has been helping one Karimojong boy “whom he takes to school. The police, though, are leaving nothing to chance. Already, the roadblocks have resulted in the rescue of four other girls: Ms Margaret Nakii, Ms Anab*

*L’ochoro, Ms Ogono Nacugwai, Ms Elizabeth Natee and Ms Lokoroi. Police took interest in the issue after the Amuria Woman MP, Ms Rhoda Acen, blew the whistle on child trafficking in the region at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel in Entebbe”*<sup>56</sup>.

In summary, literature review has indicated that perpetrators vary significantly by age, gender occupation and interest as well as in benefits do. Significantly recruitment is mainly to supply internal demands, with a few cases for cross- borders purposes.

## 2.7 Conditions and Consequences of trafficking on Children and forced recruitment of child soldiers.

Literature has revealed that children who are trafficked go through horrible conditions at the places of exploitation as indicated below:

### a) Child soldiers

These children have experienced abduction, mutilations, rape, killings, torture, sexual slavery, enslavement and other forms of sexual violence. Children narrated that in addition to caning at the time of initiation, LRA commanders and senior soldiers beat them often severely, for minor infractions committed while under their orders. The LRA commanders also beat children to encourage them to march faster; including those wounded in the fighting, and sometimes kills those that can't keep up. Child abductees are forced to beat and sometimes kill civilians in looting operations, participate in the abduction of new children, and steal from and burn houses in their home regions. Children are forced to witness and participate in the killings of other children, usually those who attempt to escape but get captured.

The practice of using the children to collectively kill fosters guilt and fear among them, and sends a powerful message to the children of their potential fate if they attempt to escape. In addition, the brutal tactics used to control the children make their personal rehabilitation and reintegration into their home communities much more difficult.<sup>57</sup>

According to ILO-IPEC 2004, many children have been physically and psychologically affected, while some have died. Many reports indicate that over 12,000 children abducted in northern Uganda by LRA had been involved in fighting and many were killed in combat, suffering the fate of soft target and other brutal murders<sup>58</sup>. Unfortunate children end up with their body parts chopped off by the rebels in a maniac expression of military adversaries<sup>59</sup>.

Under abduction, children experience harsh working conditions such as carrying supplies, cook/clean, lot

<sup>56</sup>See Uganda: Police Smash Girl Trafficking Racket reported by Kabona Esiara & Rodney Muhumuza in HYPERLINK “[http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed\\_name=The%20Monitor&passed\\_location=Kampala](http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=The%20Monitor&passed_location=Kampala)”

<sup>57</sup>“<http://hrw.org/reports/2003/uganda0303/uganda0403-03.htm>” \ “P167\_21020#P167\_21020”

<sup>58</sup>See Monitor Newspaper Wednesday, April 27 2005, America doubts military option to end LRA rebellion.

<sup>59</sup>See Peter Mulira, do Ugandans have any compassions, in The New vision, Saturday June 25, 2005 p.8

<sup>53</sup>See Coalition against trafficking in women, the global sex industry is a massive profit making enterprise based on the marketing of women and girls.

<sup>54</sup>See, UNICEF Information sheet, Child workers in the shadow of AIDS, 2001

<sup>55</sup>See Red Pepper Wednesday, August 16, 2006

supplies, act as spies, bodyguards and participate in combat; meaning that they undergo military training and indoctrination to accept the cause of fighting. Majority of females are involved in carrying supplies, cooking and serving as sex slaves/wives. Mistreatment is a common occurrence characterized by working for long hours, walking long distances, working without food and carrying heavy loads/tools.

Other literature also reveals through the children testimonies, as one narrated over the Radio Wa Fm that:

*"We are not allowed to listen to the radio, wash clothes, cook food,... when we go to look for food, the soldiers shoot and more of us die".*

New vision reported one commander mentioned that LRA child soldiers are more wild and rude than the adults, many were turned into killers<sup>60</sup>. One LRA captive identified as Monica16, said:

*"I escaped because LRA wanted to kill me after dropping the luggage that I was carrying when UPDF helicopter gunship shelled their position at Okidi hills in Atiak sub county, Kilak county in Gulu district on Saturday, when sad the helicopter hit. I she was made to lie down to be killed for leaving behind the beans and cabbages meant for the children"*<sup>61</sup>.

The Women's initiative for gender justice which was monitoring the International Criminal Court (ICC) activities in northern Uganda reported that:

*"It was clear that while the LRA commits most crimes, the team also heard testimonies of similar violations by the UPDF as well as the Karimojong raiders including abduction, mutilations, rape torture, sexual slavery, enslavement and other forms of sexual violence"*<sup>62</sup>.

### **b) The Night Commuters**

Due to fear of abduction and eventual trafficking, children in war northern zone usually migrate in the evening to towns where they expect security under the protection of the army. The problem of night commuters, a by-product of child abduction has escalated. It comes with the problem of rape and sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS infection, defilement against the girls by adult men and sometimes government soldiers. Commuting back and forth affects the children, school performance and leads to school dropouts escalating unemployment and paving the way for future trafficking.

### **c) Sexual exploitation**

Studies on trafficked children for the purpose of sexual exploitation indicate that a variety of long-term emotional, behavioural, social and sexual problems result. Children involved in CSEC experience physical harm i.e. rape, beating and assault by client partners and HIV/AIDS.<sup>63</sup>

Also noted among the victims of CSEC are tendencies of substance abuse, adolescent prostitution, and running away from home, confusion, and sexual dysfunction and suicide attempts. (Ibid). Other studies confirmed that

the consequences of sexual abuse on such children have included, running away, conduct disorders, delinquency, aggressiveness promiscuity and inappropriate sexual behaviour (ibid).

### **d) Child domestic labour**

As earlier noted, trafficked girls are far more affected than boys both in terms of numbers as well as the severity of conditions they undergo. Studies reveal that children are involved in child domestic labour perform a range of physical tasks including washing, cooking, fetching water, gate keeping, looking after animals, taking and collecting children from school laundry work, collecting firewood and cultivating gardens among others. (WAYS 2004: 37, PLA 2003).

Girls involved in domestic work face sexual harassment and abuse and are susceptible to HIV/AIDS Infections. They are also easy targets for physical, verbal and psychological abuse by female employers/wives. They also lack sanitary amenities due to their meagre pay. Platform for Labour Action (2003; 15).

In their study, FIDA, 2001 noted that:

*"Eighty-four percent of domestic workers surveyed were girls and began work at age 9 on average, although some are reported to be as young as 5 years old. Domestic workers can work up to 15 hours a day and are more vulnerable than their peers to sexual abuse"*<sup>64</sup>

### **e) Fishing and agriculture**

ILO-IPEC (2005) cited a number of health hazards including drowning, promiscuity and vulgar language risks of armed robbery and working chilly nights on the lake. In the agriculture sector, children face work-related injuries, back pain, exposure to chemicals due to lack of protective gear, and working early in the morning in very cold conditions. The children also risk sexual harassments, defilement, STDs early pregnancy and other ailments. The activity in which most children working in agriculture are involved is harvesting. Children in the agricultural sector are more involved in harvesting and work the longest hours (9 hours) on tea plantation, though some children working on sugar plantations work 10 hours a day<sup>65</sup>. Children work on agricultural plantations for long hours without specific rest periods, especially on rice plantations where they are employed to chase away birds. Diseases such as tetanus, malaria and poisonous snakes threaten their lives.

### **f) Early marriage, slavery and servitude**

Child marriage is a violation of human rights representing the most prevalent form of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Its harmful consequences include separation from family at an early age, denial of freedom to interact with peers and participate in community activities, and it can jeopardise the opportunity for education. Reports have indicted that trafficked children face the problem of early marriage and servitude to their so-called 'suitors'. For example, abducted young girls from Northern Uganda

<sup>60</sup>See The Times Correspondent, Sam Famer; quoted in the NEW Vision Thursday June 29, 2006 p.8.

<sup>61</sup>See the New vision, Tuesday, March 22, 2005 page 9

<sup>62</sup>See New vision Newspaper Wednesday November 2004 page 4.

<sup>63</sup>See ILO-IPEC study on HIV/ AIDS and Child labour, (2004).

<sup>64</sup>See FIDA (Uganda), Children in Domestic Service, vii-viii., 2001

<sup>65</sup>ILO-IPEC 2005: Economic study on child labour wages and productivity in the fishing and construction industries in Uganda.

are taken to the rebel camps in the Sudan, where they live as sex slaves and rebel wives. UNICEF<sup>66</sup> notes that child marriage may result in bonded labour or enslavement, commercial sexual exploitation and violence against the victims. Child victims of trafficking and early marriage cannot abstain from sex or insist on a condom use. They are often exposed to reproductive health risks such as premature pregnancy, STDs and HIV/AIDS. Uganda has the highest teenage pregnancy at 31 % remaining among the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>67</sup>.

## 2.8 Interventions provided to rescued child soldiers and those in other WFCL

In the literature, several actors are cited in a variety of interventions provided to rescued child soldiers and those in other WFCL. At International level, ILO-IPEC has put in a considerable amount of resources to address the WFCL with the support of the US government. The interventions have focused more on withdrawal and rehabilitation; less has been done focusing on the contributory factors for trafficking of children. Various interventions supported by ILO-IPEC in 2004-5 have focused on advocacy, prevention, withdraw and rehabilitation of children; reintegration and resettlement of affected children by CSEC, child domestic labour, street children and children in agriculture and informal trade.

NGOs have also been very active in the observance and enforcement of laws concerning marginalized children. Others like the Legal Aid Project protect interests of vulnerable children, orphans and the surviving parents and widows. NGOs provide psychosocial and health programmes especially on conditions HIV/AIDS and other general treatment services for both in and out of school-affected children.

### 2.8.1 Interventions related to trafficking of children

The MoGLSD, in collaboration with ILO-IPEC has been spearheading various interventions in combating the problem of child labour. A wide partnership with various actors has been mobilised to implement specific projects targeting different categories of working children, including those in commercial sexual exploitation, some whom are products of trafficking.

A multi-sectoral and National Steering Committee on Child Labour comprising line ministries such as (MoGLSD); Ministry of Education and Sports (MES), Local Government, social partners, NGOs, the media and academia was established in 1999. The committee brings together key stakeholders to monitor the child labour activities in the country and take decisions on policies and programmes regarding child labour.

A Child Labour Unit has been established in the MoGLSD as the focal point for the government on child

labour issues and to coordinate child labour activities in the country. The Child Labour Unit also serves as the Secretariat to the National Steering Committee on Child Labour. The Police Department, Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) as a special partner to the MoGLSD has created a cadre of officials specifically trained to protect children and women and children against abuse, violence and those children who come in conflict with the law.

### 2.8.2 Assistance to former child soldiers

There are several actors involved in interventions to assist children affected in war areas especially formerly abducted children (FCA) to ensure their release, rehabilitation and reintegration into the society. Some of the services provided include:

- ▶ Psychosocial rehabilitation (counselling, drama and music, re-integration, vocational skills training, Prevention, withdraw and rehabilitation.
- ▶ Community sensitisation and advocacy programs, cultural reconciliations, (emergency responses and stigmatisation), recreation services and training teachers on psychosocial support.
- ▶ Amnesty Commission: Provides Amnesty by Act 2003, to demobilise, reintegrate and resettle former rebels. Settles crimes committed by children and offers immunity and a resettlement package, transfers children to reception centres.
- ▶ United Nations agencies such as the World Food Programme have provided food and other relief items to affected children and their families especially in IDP camps.

Notable NGOs include Rachele Rehabilitation centre, Gulu support the Children organization, Kitgum concerned women's association (KICWA), Acholi education Initiative (AEI), Concerned parents Association (CPA), War Affected Children organisation. Others include Associazione Volontari per il Servizio internazionale (AVSI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas, Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR), Katakwi Children's Voice (KVC), Save the Children Fund and World Vision International.

UNICEF negotiated for the return of abducted and trafficked children. International NGOs such as AMREF, Save the Children Fund, Feed the children and the US government has provided a lot of funding to government and NGOs in the reintegration of and provision of support to formerly abducted children. The Uganda Red Cross Society and World Vision for instance, have assisted over 200 formerly abducted girls and child mothers in Gulu District.

## 2.9 Challenges in Rehabilitation and withdrawal of affected children.

Literature on child trafficking has shown that children affected by WFCL want to go back to school if given the opportunity, some preferred to balance work with formal education by attending school after work. Other children noted that they may want to do vocational skills training (tailoring, mechanics and driving); but many couldn't

<sup>66</sup> Child protection information sheets, UNICEF 2006

<sup>67</sup> See Country Programme action plan 2006-2010. Pg.5

afford them because relatives could not afford to pay, and agencies wanted fees for their training, a gap one needs to address to curb re-trafficking of children.

In the north, the education system has been destroyed by the war, schools and teachers have been specific targets of the violence. Once they have passed through the rehabilitations centres, many children have to return to the camps where they are at risk of being abducted again.

## **2.10 Practical measures to address child trafficking and recruitment of children in armed conflict in Northern Uganda**

### **Legal Framework**

There are many areas in which Uganda has made measurable strides towards improvement of the development and welfare of children, including protection of children from child labour. They include signing of international treaties, formulating sectoral policies, legislation and programmes.

#### **2.10.1. International treaties**

Uganda has acceded on several international treaties which bind it to translate into the municipal law, these include:

##### **a) ILO Convention 138 Minimum Age of Admission to Employment (1973)**

Uganda ratified the ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment No. 138 (1973) in 2002. This Convention provides for the development of a comprehensive national Child Labour Policy. Government has declared the minimum age for admission to employment to be set at the age 14 years. The government of Uganda ratified ILO Convention 138 on March 25, 2003.

##### **b) ILO Convention 182 Worst forms of Child Labour**

The Convention defines the worst forms of child labour as practices similar to slavery such as sale and trafficking of children, child prostitution, debt bondage and recruitment of children in armed conflict. Prior to the ratification of the ILO Conventions on child labour, government launched a national programme on elimination of child labour. In its first phase, the programme targeted the most exploitative and abusive forms of child labour including children working in plantations, in the informal sector, domestic service, and children involved in CSEC and other hazardous work. The Government of Uganda ratified ILO Convention 182 on June 21, 2001.

##### **c) United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989**

This commits Uganda to promote children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation. Articles in the CRC that have a bearing on trafficking of children include:

*34 Sexual exploitation,*

*35 Sale, trafficking and abduction,*

*36 Other forms of exploitation,*

*37 Torture and deprivation of Liberty,*

*38 Armed conflicts,*

*39 Rehabilitation and Care*

Subscription to the above treaties indicates that Uganda has joined the rest of the world in committing itself to the progressive elimination of child labour. The challenge remains in fully integrating the treaties into the national legislation and programmes.

##### **d) UN Convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others (1949)**

The convention is one of the international human rights instruments that address 'slavery- and slavery like practices'. The preamble sets forth the principle that prostitution and trafficking is 'incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person'. Women in prostitutions are not considered as criminals but as victims to be protected. The convention advocated punishment for those who procure, entice or lead others into prostitution and trafficking and states that countries cannot regulate prostitution or subject women in prostitution to registration or other administrative controls.

##### **e) Convention on the Elimination of all worst forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) 1979.**

Uganda ratified CEDAW in 1985, specifically Article 6 which stipulates that 'state parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women'. It builds on the 1949 convention by introducing all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women, and acknowledges that new forms of trafficking and sexual exploitation exist and must be curbed. CEDAW clarifies that trafficking is a form of gender-based violence and highlights the interconnections between trafficking in women, women's lower economic status, armed conflict and violence.

##### **f) Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and Children, supplementing the UN convention against trans-national organized crime (2000): The Palermo protocol)**

The protocol was ratified in 2005 and has a wide-ranging agreement to address the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. It is intended to jumpstart national laws and harmonizes regional legislation against trafficking in women and children. Article 9.5 addresses the issue of demand that promotes trafficking. It stipulates that 'state parties shall take or strengthen legislative or other measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children that leads to trafficking'. Uganda signed this treaty in 2004 but has not ratified it.

### g) UN Commission on the Status of Women 2005. Resolution 49/2. Eliminating Demand for Trafficked Women and girls for all forms of exploitation in the report of the 49th Session.

This reinforces Article 9.5 of the UN protocol against trafficking (2000) by affirming that: ‘eliminating the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation including sexual exploitation is a key element to combating trafficking’. It calls upon governments to take all appropriate measures to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls and emphasizes that commercial sexual exploitation, overwhelmingly affects women and girls.

### h) Report of Sigma Huda, the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

This report integrates the human rights of women and a gender perspective with a special focus on the demand for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. The report states that ‘for the most part, prostitution as actually practiced in the world usually does satisfy the elements of trafficking’. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions and the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The majority of child soldiers are between 15 and 18 and therefore not illegal under current international law. Fifteen is the minimum age for recruitment and participation in hostilities specified in Optional protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Additional protocol to the 1949 Geneva Convention

## 2.10. 2. National legislation

Some of the International treaties have been translated into the several legal binding documents as illustrated below:

### a) The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

This is the supreme law and it prohibits holding in slavery or servitude of any person in Uganda including children. (Article 25). Furthermore, Article 34(4) of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda protects children under the age of 16 years from social or economic exploitation. It emphasises that children shall not be employed in or required to perform work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with their education, be harmful to their health or physical, mental and social development.

### b) The Children Act 2000

This law gives legal status to many of the commitments in the CRC and follows the CRC principle of “The best interests of the child”. It defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years Art 5 (3). It establishes the rights of children such as: the right to live with parents have custody, protection from discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect Article 5 (6). More so, Article 5 (9) prohibits

the employment of children or their engagement in any activity that may be harmful to their lives, health, and education, mental, physical or moral development”.

### c) Local Government Act (1997)

The Act provides for a Secretary responsible for Children’s Affairs at all local levels and gives them mandate to plan and implement programmes at local government level.

### d) Legislation impacting on child labour

According to the laws of Uganda chapter 219, the Employment Act (2005), section 55 sub section (1) on unsuitable employment; states that no young person may be employed in any employment which is injurious to health, dangerous or otherwise unsuitable. However, section 51 which specifies employment of children states that: “no person may employ a person of or under the apparent age of twelve years except on such light work as the Minister may, from time to time, by statutory order, prescribe.

### e) The Penal Code Act (Cap 120)

Article 125 criminalizes procuring of women for prostitution. Article 126 criminalizes procuring of a woman for unlawful sexual intercourse by using threats, intimidation, and deception or by administering drugs. The penalty for both offences is seven years imprisonment. In addition, the Penal Code makes trafficking in women and children and having sex with a girl less than 18 years unlawful.

Abduction of children is also prohibited under section 126 and 239, procurement under section 131, pornography under section 166 and concealment under section 246. This law is not comprehensive and is limited due to the lack of extradition arrangements between Uganda and countries where it has taken place and also for example it does not cover transfer of organs of a child for profit.

A Sexual Offences Bill is being developed to provide more protection for children against sexual abuse and rise the age of consent to 18 years. In spite of the existence of a wide spectrum of laws to protect children from CSEC, lenience in enforcement of laws, lack of legal awareness and the prolonged legal process by law enforcement agencies deter justice from being exercised. Uganda lacks a specific law on trafficking and its absence has made combating this crime very difficult. Many times would-be victims of this practice end up being the ones persecuted.

## 2.10.3. Policies and Programmes

### a) National Programme of Action for Children

Inspired by the UN Summit on Children, the Uganda National Programme of Action on Children (UNPAC) was developed and launched in 1993 to provide a framework for all actors to protect the rights of children in areas of child survival, protection, development and participation.

### b) National Child Labour Policy

This was recently passed at end of October 2006, by the government of Uganda. The policy has defined child labour and the worst forms that need to be given urgent

action, including children engaged in CSEC. The specific objectives of the policy are: firstly to integrate child labour concerns into the national, district and community programmes and plans. Secondly, establish a legislative and institutional framework to initiate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate child labour programmes. Lastly, to stimulate collective and concerted efforts to eliminate child labour at all levels.

#### **c) Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP)**

This focuses on the rural poor with the objective of increasing income generating activities and lifting the standards of living of the poor. The PEAP on the other hand does not specifically address the worst forms of child labour.

#### **d) The National Council of Children (NCC)**

This was established to guide and direct policies and actions in social services to address children issues. NCC lacks the capacity, both human and financial resources, to track and monitor child trafficking and child welfare in general.

#### **e) National Policy on HIV/AIDS and young people**

An HIV/AIDS policy has been developed placing emphasis on raising awareness about HIV/AIDS among young people and increasing their knowledge on prevention and control as well as increasing access to appropriate sexual health information and counselling services.

#### **f) DVC policy and strategic framework**

The recently developed national Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Policy is an integral part of the PEAP and SDIP. The goal of the policy is to mitigate the impact of orphan hood and other causes of the vulnerability of children in Uganda and improve the fulfilment of their rights. The policy priority areas are: Child protection, care and support, social-economic security psychosocial support, food security and nutrition, conflict resolution and peace building, legal support and capacity enhancement.

#### **g) Universal Primary Education (UPE)**

Efforts to expand education facilities under Universal Primary Education (UPE) by government have provided some preventive measures against child labour especially to the vulnerable children. Enrolments in primary education have grown from 2.9 million in 1997 to 5.7 million children in 1999. By 2000 UNICEF estimated the figure to have. Specifically: risen to 7.2 million. This has been beneficial to the girl child especially those from poorer households. However retention of children in schools is challenged by poor proximity to schools, gender factors, and poverty in homes, HIV/AIDS pandemic and conflicts.

Policies to improve the quality of education have been launched as part of the Education Strategic Investment Plan. They include, classroom construction programmes, curriculum development and the Plan of Action for the Girls' Education.

In education sector, NGOs have strongly complemented government efforts. Provisions include scholastic materials, uniforms and school fees. Some donors sponsor children and others conduct spiritual guidance and sensitise them on children rights, child labour, life skills and HIV/AIDS.

The World Food Programme (WFP) provides things like food (lunch at school), assist in school quality improvement support to vocational skills training, literacy classes, hygiene and sanitation, provision of water and resettlement kits. Complementary programmes focus on disadvantaged groups such as street children, for example COPE<sup>68</sup> provides basic education to out of school children aged 10-16 who are unable to attend formal schools, such as nomadic groups and internally displaced children. ABEK<sup>69</sup> is a non-formal education program adapted to the daily routines of the children of the nomadic Karimojong ethnic group.

## **2.11 Experience, conclusion and lessons learnt from the literature review**

Literature on child trafficking in Uganda provides little information on the way children are recruited for the various destinations in exploitative and WFCL. No precise data was found on the numbers, save from mentioning the activities they end up doing.

The reports indicated that most trafficked children end up in domestic work, followed by prostitution, street life, soldiering and sacrifice. There is also scanty mention of cross-border trafficking in children. Reports do mention the routes and perpetrators who are usually known to the communities.

The literature is also very candid on the consequences and the squalid conditions the children live under during trafficking and the hazards they confront at their destinations. Less is written about the supply areas, not withstanding those trafficked in war zones and the Karamoja region.

Due to the hidden nature of the activity, investigators are unable to document the full extent and scope of the problem.

The Government of Uganda does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking despite the fact that it has accented to several protocols. Most interventions appear to be driven by NGOs and concentrated on child soldiering in the northern war zones. Duplication of services on child soldiers especially in the north has been noted in the literature.

Interventions in Uganda have been supported largely by ILO-IPEC/USDOL with less focus on trafficking and mainly addressing withdrawal of children from WFCL. Trafficking in children has not received the appropriate at-

<sup>68</sup>See The Republic of Uganda, Complementary Opportunities for Primary Education( COPE)

<sup>69</sup>See Christine Okurut-Ibore, Community Initiative to the Education of Pastoralists in Uganda: Alternative Basic Education Karamoja (ABEK), Save the Children Norway

tention it deserves, because data on this problem has been very limited.

Despite the government having signed many international conventions putting in place several policies and enacted legal documents; The Uganda government's commitment to address trafficking of children is not clearly visible. Government department who would enforce these legal documents are confronted with limited information, under-funding and weak coordination all of which are compounded by the hidden nature of the problem.

NGOs have the capacity and staff to deliver in a professional way, undertake regular reviews of the assistance. Many times they promote community participation, through identification of the needy, resources and local solutions, However, NGOs programmes face many challenges; most times they are project-driven and short term in nature, depend on surplus and profits accrued by these entities and usually undertake activities for a short time. They cover smaller numbers and sometimes exclude certain areas and gender.

# CHAPTER THREE

## Presentation of the study findings

### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents, discusses and analyses study findings. It contains three sections including background information about child respondents, trafficking mechanisms, work conditions and life styles of trafficked children.

### 3.1 Background information about children respondents

This section presents information background information about respondents including sex, parental status, and education attainment of the children respondents in percentage terms. This information is integrated with key informants' views and used to draw conclusions.

#### 3.1.1 Children interviewed

The study interviewed children (10-17 years) including ex-child soldiers and others engaged in WFCL.

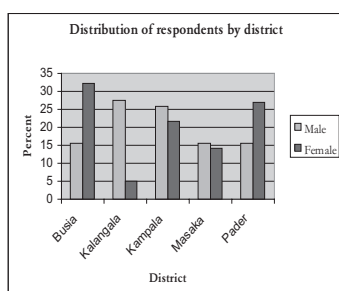
A total of 245 children (68 percent males and 32 females) were interviewed. Over 60 percent of the children were in the age bracket 15-17 years followed by 12-14 years and lastly 5-11 year olds. In terms of gender, 68 percent of males and 32 percent of females participated in the study.

Table 1 (a): Distribution of children by age, gender and district

District	Age			%
	5-11	12-14	15-17	
Busia	0.0	16.4	25.3	20.8
Kalangala	5.6	6.9	28.6	20.4
Kampala	38.9	32.9	18.8	24.5
Masaka	22.2	16.4	13.6	15.1
Pader	33.3	27.4	13.6	19.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	66.7	78.1	63.2	67.9
Female	33.3	21.9	36.8	32.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>245</b>

Figure 1 shows distribution of children per district of study. Kampala district had the highest number of respondents (21 percent) followed by Busia (21 percent), Kalangala (20 percent), Pader (19 percent) and Masaka (15 percent).

Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by district



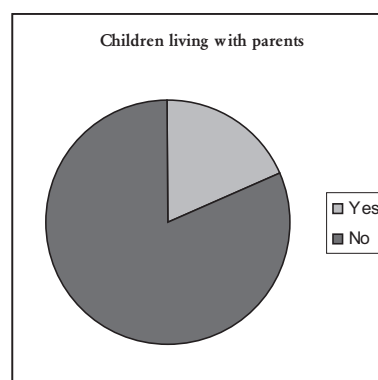
Distribution of children by tribe shows that 4 in every ten children were from central Buganda followed by Acholi sub-region. It should, however, be noted that the large proportion of children being Baganda was mainly due to the fact that three districts were from Buganda in central region (i.e. Kampala, Kalangala and Masaka).

Table 1 (b): Distribution of children by tribe

Tribe	Numbers	Percent
Muganda	88	36
Acholi	44	18
Munyankole	21	9
Samia	10	4
Gishu	8	3
Iteso	6	2
Mutoro	4	2
Munyoro	4	2
Mukiga	4	2
Lango	1	0
Other	56	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>100</b>

Overall only 19 percent of children interviewed were staying with parents but had gone through the experience of being trafficked. For those not staying with their parents it was established, through key informants, that a number of girls live alone (81percent) renting small rooms commonly known as mizigo either alone or in groups, while boys were staying on streets. This was common in Busia and Kampala districts. This situation could also be attributed to the fact that many children were orphans (see table 3). In such circumstances, children lack parental guidance and protection, thus increasing vulnerability to trafficking.

Figure 2: Children living with parents



#### 3.1.2 Marital status of parents of children

Establishing whether parents of these children were married was important to inform the study about the types of families the children originate from and whether these contribute to creating a favourable conditions for trafficking of children.

Table 2, below shows that (over 90 percent) of children's parents interviewed were not married. Comparatively more girls' parents were married.

Table 2: Marital status of children s' parents

Marital status	Male	Female	Total (%)
Single	93	87	92
Married	4	5	5
Divorced/separated	2	3	2
Widowed	1	3	1
Co-habiting	0	3	1

In addition, the study also revealed that the majority children were orphans (61 percent), 34 percent had parents while 3 percent did not have an idea. More girls almost 70 percent were orphaned as compared to boys. *See table 3 below:*

Table 3: Parental status of the children:

Parental status	Male	Female	Percent
Non-orphan	37	28	34
Orphan	57	70	61
Don't Know	7	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Although the study did not investigate the causes of death of parents, it is widely known from previous researchers that the problem of numbers of orphans has continued to rise in Uganda, estimated at 1.8 million orphans mainly due to HIV/AIDS and conflicts. (MoGLSD, 2004). Earlier studies done by ILO/ IPEC in Uganda on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children and the Urban Informal Sector in 2004 indicated that orphans were more likely to be moved or trafficked in search of opportunities. Equally important is that even non-orphans (34 percent) were also vulnerable to trafficking; implying that also these children are very vulnerable to child trafficking provided there are favourable conditions for it such as poverty.

It was also evident that homes had no safety nets (short-term measures including information) to help support and absorb children, especially girls who were redundant and could easily fall prey to trafficking.

### 3.1.3 Education

Education is a key factor that affects many aspects of life, including individual, social and economic aspects. It is also influences chances of children engaging in child labour both positively and negatively. Again the educational attainment among children is an indicator of the duration of exposure to schooling and their ability to analyse information and understand issues. Studies have shown that when a child is not in school, he/she is more likely to join the labour force early and hence the involvement in any form of child labour or exploitation. During the interviews, a child respondent said that "Most of the traffickers are women, especially those who have small businesses and would like to employ cheap labour. They always look for uneducated poor children or those who are desperate and have dropped out of school".

Table 4: Levels of education attained by children

Education level completed	Male	Female	Total
Completed primary education	68	64	67
Completed post-primary	13	6	11
Completed secondary	10	13	11
Completed post- secondary	2	1	2
Never attended school	2	8	4
<b>Number</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Other training</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4 above shows that majority of children (67 percent), who were trafficked only completed primary education. Another 11 percent stopped in secondary school and 11 percent completed post-primary education. Indeed, 4 percent has never been to school at all.

Ministry Education revealed recently that, the high levels of poverty experienced in Uganda estimated at 38 percent of all the population living below one dollar (UBOS, 2005) and the high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS epidemic of 6.5 percent (ILO-IPEC study on HIV/AIDS, 2006) have significantly undermined families' ability to take and retain children in school.

That notwithstanding, the Uganda government has introduced Universal primary education (UPE), which is believed to have increased the enrolment level from a mere 2.5 million children in 1997 up to 7.2 million children in 2006; however, the drop-out rates of 80 percent are still high. Most times there are fewer chances of trafficking children who are at school than they're out of school counterparts.

### 3.1.4 Reasons for dropping out of school

Most times there are fewer chances of trafficking children who are at school than their out-of-school counterparts. Interactions with key informants in a FGD in Makindye Division, Kampala district revealed that, "most of the trafficked children come from poor families, are orphans and have failed to go to school and the most affected are girls who have dropped out of school and are idle at home. Boys are just stubborn and do not want to do any work at home but want to be self-reliant. To some, they are ignorant and just have fantasies of a better life and income in towns and cities". It was reported that in every 10 girls working as CDWs, 7 of them have been trafficked.

Table 5: Reasons why children dropped out of school

Reason	Number	Percent
High Cost of fees /school requirements	149	53
Orphaned	67	24
Need to work	10	4
To help in the household	8	3
Poor academic performance	7	3
Completed desired level	3	1
Trafficking	3	1
Internal displacement	2	1
School too far	1	0
Other	30	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses.

Table 5 reveals that most children (53 percent) dropped out due to the high cost (fees and other school requirements), followed by orphanhood (24 percent). The sum total of these two factors alone is 75 percent, which is three quarters of the reasons why children drop-out of school. These two factors have a bearing on the parental status and the ability of parents to afford the cost school requirement and fees. During the assessment, two children observed that “we had no one to pay our school fees and that is why we dropped out of school”. According to statistics from Ministry Education and Sports, high school charges, biting poverty and lack of fees accounts for 62 percent of drop outs and the second cause of dropouts in school is pregnancy and marriage accounting for 11 percent<sup>70</sup>.

Orphans who had dropped out of school and had single parents represent a manifestation of family instability in terms of care and support. This situation is a recipe for vulnerability to child migration and early marriage and opens doors to traffickers to take advantage of. Many communities and local leaders noted that there were no actions taken because such homes were impoverished and believed that when their children are taken to cities/towns they could get a better future. In a FGD in Busia, one participant said “Poverty and orphanhood have created a situation where children are mistreated by relatives and create a favourable situation for traffickers to move children to town to work as housemaids or in bars while others become street children”

Although the other factors represent a small percentage, it signals that the need to work (4 percent), help in the household chores (3 percent), poor academic performance (3 percent), and trafficking are also related to parental status that interrupts the child’s education and eventually leads to dropping out of school.

Another reason why children drop out of school is the need to work in order to raise school fees, contribute to household income and take care of themselves and other sibling. Many traffickers enlist orphaned children in the name of helping them to meet their basic needs.

Equally, the reasons responsible for children dropping out from schools affect both sexes in almost similar proportions as indicated in table 6 below.

Table 6: Reasons for dropping out school by gender

Reason	Male	Female	Percent
High Cost (fees/school needs)	65	63	64
Orphaned	29	30	29
Need to work	4	6	4
Do household Chores	4	1	4
Poor academic performance	4	1	3
Completed desired level	2	0	1
Trafficking	1	1	1
Internal displacement	0	3	1
School too far	1	0	0
Other	11	17	13
Total	121	122	120

Note: the table represents multiple responses

<sup>70</sup>See education Vision, in the New vision, Newspaper Monday September 18, 2006, page 19.

### 3.2 Trafficking mechanisms

#### 3.2.1 Factors fuelling child trafficking

There are several factors that facilitate and fuel the act of child trafficking in Uganda. Because of their vulnerability and high-risk status, children are more likely to fall prey to the interests of traffickers. This assessment unravels the reasons behind the heinous act of child trafficking which goes on unabated.

#### 3.2.2 Reasons for coming to the present destinations

Appreciating the motive why children came to their present destinations is a pointer as to why they were trafficked. This also provides a clue of their destinations and the economic activities they are involved in. The findings, in table 7 shows that 46 percent of the children gave working in bars /lodges/restaurants as the major reason for moving to the present residence; followed by 20 percent who indicated visits.

Table 7: Reason for coming to present destinations

Reason	Number	Percent
To work in a bar/Lodge	92	46
Visit	20	10
Fishing	19	10
Domestic work	13	7
Rehabilitation	8	4
Schooling	4	2
Smuggling	3	2
Agriculture	2	1
Marriage	2	1
Commercial sex	1	1
Others	34	17
Total	198	101

Note: the table represents multiple responses

#### 3.2.3 Methods of Recruitment of children

During the study children it was established that 70 percent of the children were enticed by friends or family members who made promises of well-paying jobs or a good life at the place of destination. It was reported by one child from Kyamulibwa Masaka that a relative came from town and promised her grandparents that she was going to get a well paying job in town since she was out of school. In addition, it was revealed during an interview with a key informant in Masaka district that when formerly trafficked Children go back to villages looking smart, they entice their peers with modern clothing style and bread which makes children living in villages feel that life in urban areas is good and eventually get persuaded to urban areas to have a taste of the “good” life.

Table 8: Methods of recruitment

Method of recruitment	Number	Percent
Enticed	160	70
Kidnapped/Abducted	13	6
Forced by parent/guardian	26	11
Intoxicated	2	1
Don't know	5	2
Others	23	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

Kidnapping/abduction is another forceful method trafficker's use to enlist children into trafficking both in non-conflict and conflict situations. During the assessment study, 11 percent of children reported to have been kidnapped and the use of force was evident.

In addition, the conflict situation in the war-torn northern Uganda has led to the abduction and conscription of hundreds of children into army ranks by the Lord's Resistance Army rebels thus exposing them to worst forms of child labour and sexual exploitation as the Local Council V Chairman observed below;

*'Rebels of the LRA raid villages and take children, often dragging them away from the dead bodies of their parents or siblings. They prefer children aged 14 to 16, but at times abduct children as young as 8 or 9, boys and girls alike. They tie the children to one another and force them to carry heavy loads of looted goods as they march them off into the bush. Children who attempt to escape, cannot keep up or become tired/ill are killed'.*

#### Abduction and kidnap in non-conflict areas

During the assessment study, it was established that in non-conflict areas, children are kidnapped and sometimes others are forced by their parents/guardians to go with traffickers. Other children were intoxicated before being moved to their final destinations. A key informant in Kampala said that *"Some children are just trafficked in a way of kidnap and abduction. Children are abducted from social gatherings; such as sports galas, music festivals, church congregations, and commercial promotions among others. Such people lure children into their cars and give them gifts to convince child to stay with them. If the child doesn't accept, they use chloroform to intoxicate the child"*.

It is evident that acts of trafficking pass unnoticed because the methods of recruitment are persuasive and confidential that it is not easy to suspect, or forceful that nothing can be done as in the case of abduction in armed conflicts.

The case study 1 below narrates the experience of a boy who was abducted in a non-conflict situation.

#### Case study 1

##### Juma - 13 (not real name)

*Juma stays in Bulingo, Mukoko parish in Kalungu county Masaka district in a child-headed household of 4 children. His parents were peasant farmers, but all died due to HIV/AIDS and left the burden of providing for basic needs (food, medical care, Education, dressing) to them. The family gets some income from the foodstuffs they grow in order to sustain them, and occasionally, get assistance, which is inadequate, from their brother in Kampala. Juma dropped out of school in Primary 5 due to lack of school requirements*

*(uniform, food, fees and scholastic materials) he says; "we are just at home doing nothing". One time, after dropping out of school, a woman, (Namatovu) known to have been a resident of Bulingo sometime back came back to the village from Kampala. She started moving around the place convincing/persuading many children to be taken to Kampala to work as distributors of bread to retail shops. She convinced them that life would be good once they reach Kampala, as they would be earning 10,000 shillings each per month. Having gone around convincing many in need, Namatovu told them not to follow her immediately but meet her at 2.00pm at Lukaya where she waited for them to board a taxi to Kampala. They were 9 children (6 boys and 3 girls). He says: "On reaching Kampala, we went to her residence at Lusaka zone in Katwe where she got us rooms to stay. She mistreated us as we were in confinement and not allowed to go out of the gate. Girls used to sleep on mats without a blanket to cover themselves. We starved because getting food was quite hard. After some days she got for us work to do that is selling old newspapers and eggs all around town. For the girls they mainly concentrated on doing domestic work. It was a rule to get 5,000 shillings daily from either newspapers or eggs, short of that we would be punished. And the moment you come back you are told not to go out of the confinement, as it was heavily restricted. We could not locate where we had come from". One day, after a period of one month at Namatovu's residence while Juma and his friend were selling newspaper and eggs, they heard people calling for Masaka; it was a taxi heading to Masaka. They used the money they had earned that day and boarded the taxi to Lukaya and then to their home village in Budingo. "The rest of our colleagues remained in Kampala and the boy I came with, taken to Kalangala Islands for fishing; he is now 19 years of age". Juma came back home and narrated the story but no one bothered to trace for the other colleagues who remained there.*

#### 3.2.4 Age and gender preference for trafficked children

##### a) Age

Although all children are at risk of trafficking, the study revealed that traffickers are interested in children of particular age groups. Table 9 shows the age brackets of children who are most affected.

Table 9: Age at time of trafficking by sex

Age group	Male	Female	Total %
15-17	35	57	42
10-14	42	26	37
5-9	18	13	16
1-4	6	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The majority of children leave home above nine years. It continues to show that more boys leave their parents homes earlier than girls. This was attributed to the fact that generally boys at this age can engage in economic activities such as smuggling, metal scrap picking and market vending. Field observations discovered that many boys were involved in vending on the streets selling boiled eggs, picking scrap metals and providing mobile pedicure and manicure services (nail cutters and nail polish). Most of these activities are informal and many times operate as unregistered businesses. The boys also begin working at a very early age compared to their female counterparts.

One key informant in Kampala observed that “Most of the traffickers are interested in females of younger ages between 8–15 years since children in these age bracket are considered to be well behaved, hardworking and cheap labour.

Another key informant in Masaka noted that “children between the ages 8-13 years are commonly taken to work as CDWs, while 14 – 17 year olds are taken to work in bars and hotels. Most of these children come from villages”.

**b) Gender**

Fewer girls leave home when still young (5-9 years); but as age increases (15-17 years) the percentage of girls trafficked increases exceeding that of boys in the same age group. This was supported further by a FGD in Kyamulibwa, Masaka district that girls who are young are more protected and their movements restricted as compared to boys. A big number of girls who are slightly older are trafficked more to work as child domestic workers, in bars and lodges and other sexual exploitative situations like early marriage and working in restaurants.

**3.2.5 Promises made to children before being trafficked**

Pledges and guarantees given to children play a central role in motivating children to be recruited innocently and eventually transported to various destinations. Promises may also help to unravel the nature of exploitation at the destination.

Table 10 reveals the responses from children regarding the promises made to them. The majority of children (32 percent) were promised a job or employment opportunity, followed by those promised better life in the city or the place of their destination (28 percent). These two factors partly explain the high number of adolescent girls who are trafficked. Those promised making money were 17 percent, (promises of making “quick” money were made by traffickers to deceive and motivate children to move with them). Some of the ways of making “quick money highlighted in the field include fishing, hawking, smuggling, stripping/nude dancing among others. A considerable number of children (13 percent) were promised to get school fees at their destination.

Table 10: Promises made to children

Promise	Number	Percent
Employment/Job	82	32
Better life	70	28
Make more money	43	17
School fees	33	13
Other	21	8
Marriage	3	1
Big family	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

Promises of employment opportunities, better life and making “quick” money add up to 65 percent. These promises appear to take advantage of vulnerability of the family and depict a situation where a child is needy with little support and is a soft target for trafficking.

During a field interview, a Police Officer in Busia said “Girls as young as 12 years are being trafficked to Busia district because of poverty, and the fact that Busia is a busy boarder town with many economic activities and a high population of truck drivers who demand for you young girls for sexual services. The most common tribe is the Bagisu who come with relatives with promises of making money and living a better life. In most cases, parents consent to the movement of their children from villages to towns through a network of friends who in most cases live in Busia town”.

**3.2.6 Reasons why children consented to trafficking**

Whereas promises such as employment, school fees, making “quick” money and better life in urban areas play a leading role in motivating children to move; there are also other factors which create an enabling environment for the child to consent to the demands of the trafficker. Table 11 indicates that 46 percent were not in school thus, the reasons why they consented, followed by those idle 31 percent.

Table 11: Reasons why children consented

Reason	Number	Percent
Not in school	75	46
Idleness	50	31
Others	23	14
Don't know	7	4
Famine	5	3
War	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

It can be deduced that once children are redundant in the village they can easily fall prey to traffickers and thus accept the promises made to them. Interestingly, there are children who justified consent with reasons such, as famine and war, the majority of these were children from conflict areas of Karamoja. It was also established during FGDs that even children in school can be trafficked though the numbers are lower than those out of school.

A staff of World Vision International in Masaka noted that, “the organization registered 70 cases of disappearing children to Kampala and other towns, and only 20 children were recovered a sign of trafficking, she noted”.

It was also discovered that promises and benefits made to parents/guardians play a significant role in compelling or forcing the child to move with traffickers. It should be noted that sometimes multiple promises were made in order to make the parents/guardians consent to the child trafficking. Children were asked what benefits were given to

their parents or relatives/ guardians and their responses are indicated in table 12 below.

Table 12: Promises made to parents/guardians

Promises made	Number	Percent
Remitting money	57	43
Child get good Employment	18	14
Food	17	13
School fees	12	9
Good Clothing	11	8
Accommodation	9	7
Others	8	6
Alcohol	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

Table 12 shows that majority of traffickers use several tricks to convince guardians and parents to surrender their children. Most traffickers use the promise of remitting money (43 percent) to the child's parent/guardians, which appears to be a major promise among the traffickers' pledge. This was followed by other pledges such as child getting good employment (18 percent) and acquisition of school fees from his destination (9 percent). Other minor pledges included getting good clothing (8 percent), accommodation (7 percent) and alcohol (1 percent). One percent was in form of alcohol.

During an FGD in Masaka one parent commented that *"Because of poverty some parents consent to the demands of giving away their children. They are given gifts like sugar, soap, salt, alcohol and are sometimes promised some money every month. Sometimes, traffickers do not talk to the guardians of the children. Only in rare cases like 2 (two) out of 10 (ten) do traffickers talk to the guardians and these are mostly relatives (uncles, aunts, family friends). Parents who consent are financially badly-off and always and tell the employers of their children to remit the wages directly to them at the end of each month"*.

During interactions with children in FGDs in Kampala, Masaka and Busia, it was noted that all these promises to children by traffickers were lies; because they were never fulfilled. Some of their parents were given sugar, soap and little money. In some instances discussions took place in absence of the child, only to be called to go or just forced to move with the trafficker(s) without query, thus, a violation of children's rights and the Prelimo protocol.

### 3.2.7 Initiation of contacts between children and traffickers

The study established how initial communication and exposure between the child, intermediaries and traffickers were made. Table 13 reveals that 54 percent of children interviewed were contacted and initiated into trafficking by relatives or guardians.

The study team discovered during interviews with

children and FGDs in Kampala and Masaka that the so called relatives were merely *'uncles' and 'Aunties'*<sup>71</sup> who had no blood relationship with the children during their close interactions while the moving, but actual traffickers.

It was evident during the assessment study that peers or friends (26 percent) also participated in making initial contacts to lure them and these capitalize on those above 15 years. Guardians, peers and friends form over 80 percent of the contacts for traffickers of children.

Table 13 Person who made the contact

Person	Number	Percent
Relative/guardian	86	54
Friends/peers	50	25
Neighbour	19	10
Person I didn't know	16	8
Abducted	9	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

The relationship between people who makes the initial contact with the family (middleman *locally known as 'kayungirizi'*) to the traffickers gives a false hope to the parents appears to be one of the major considerations to parents before surrendering the child among other factors such as job placement. These middlemen provide a sham guarantee that possibly the child intends to benefit from the trafficking.

During a FGD in Kyamulibwa, Masaka district, one of the participant said; *"The parents and the children do not know most of the traffickers, but know the middle men. These recruit children in the villages and they connect them to their agents in towns. When the trafficker contacts middlemen, they are given the children to transport them to their final destinations"*.

Where as in the above instances middlemen are known to the family of the trafficked child, a small number of traffickers (20 percent) appear to be emerging as people who are not known to the child's family. These middlemen sometimes kidnap and abduct children for the traffickers. Interactions with Key Informants revealed that trafficking can occur in phases. When a child is moved from his home to a particular destination, a new person not known to the children can again make new contacts with other potential employers or exploiters and again re-trafficks the children to another place to do similar or different tasks altogether.

### 3.2.8 Networks of recruiters of children

The study revealed that there are complicated, informal and yet well coordinated networks of individuals and groups. These networks have trafficking chains right from villages with transit points such as Nyendo and Busia towns to the final destinations. A probation officer attached to

<sup>71</sup>The word Uncle or Auntie is commonly used by children, when told by the guardians to do so; to signify respect for adults. This term (description) is found to be misleading for children because many cannot distinguish relative from a non-relative and because of that power relationship many end up accepting their instructions, sometimes violating their human rights without asking. e.g go without your Auntie from the city she will look after you. and give you a job.

Makindye Court working with City council had this to say; *“Traffickers have informal networks; they are known to a few people who always contact them to bring them these children. They occasionally go to villages such as Butambala to pick house girls/ boys, Lwero, Nakaseke and Masaka and take them to their agents in town”*.

Interactions with key informants and children revealed several levels of trafficking of children and actors involved. These include:

#### **a) Individual women and men**

Women and a men residing in various places mainly in towns and the city are engaged in recruiting children especially girls for child domestic labour. These people have contacts with prospective employers of children. They have contacts in the villages with middlemen that approach relatives and guardians to who willingly consent to the ‘deal’. They operate using mobile telephones and send traffickers to villages. Upon receipt of the child, the traffickers pay for the services of middlemen called ‘Uncle’ or ‘Auntie’ after a child has been handed over.

A Probation officer in Masaka had this to say, *“Middlemen who transport children using taxis, have informal networks that link them to children. Their organizations are informal in nature. Another key informant in Kampala noted that: “In every 10 houses in Makindye, at least 8 have house girls and these children are as young as 14 years”*.

#### **b) Pimps**

These act as individuals and link customers at brothels or contacts at bars and in their homes to children for commercial sexual exploitation. They have been partly responsible for recruiting children from villages and other places in town as a money making activity from this exploitative practice. This was very common in Busia border town, Kampala city (Lubaga and Kawempe divisions) and Kalangala islands among fishermen.

#### **c) Employment bureaus**

Several employment bureaus exist in the city and some towns. These bureaus have middle men who make contacts with potential children under the guise of getting them jobs. Employers approach bureaus and with the use of mobile phones, contact children who can work in homes, bars, lodges, and restaurants. Upon payment of a registration fee to a bureau and establishing the age, gender and experience required by the client, bureaus embark on recruitment using the various contacts they have in villages and small towns. These were reported to be the major institutional entities fuelling recruitment of large numbers of children into trafficking.

#### **d) Churches**

It was reported during the study that individual church members or pastors go to the villages in their local congregations and seek out children who are willing to work for their rich church members. All this is done in the name of religion and helping the poor orphans in villages to access better lives. The study team was told of a lady who goes to pray in the villages and upon her return, she

requests for children from their guardians promising to support them with basic needs and take them to good schools. Upon reaching Kampala she distributes them to people looking for child domestic workers.

#### **e) Transport agents**

Motorcycle-taxi riders locally known as ‘Boda boda’, commuter taxi and bus drivers, lorry and pick-up truck drivers among others were found to be actively engaged in facilitating trafficking of children especially in Masaka and Busia.

Potential employers and exploiters contact them to transport children from villages to towns. Some are sent innocently by traffickers to help them identify children in those places through their agents and later paid on delivering the child.

It was again pointed out that pick ups, and trucks which ferry sand, charcoal, banana (matooke) and other agricultural products also recruit and take children to towns especially to markets or potential employers. A key informant in Kalerwe market in Kampala observed that: *Most of the girls trafficked are brought to do child domestic labour. Usually such children come with vehicles that ferry Agricultural produce such as pineapples, water melon, pawpaw and Matooke. Most children who are brought to Kalerwe come from Masaka and Bugerere.*

Another study done by with Save the Children in Uganda, 2006 and those appearing in the daily news papers have corroborated the role played by this transport sector. The transport agents provide free transport to children and instead demand for transport costs from child traffickers, middlemen and potential employers.

#### **f) Community broadcasting**

One important tool used by the traffickers has been the use of communication media including FM radios and loudspeakers. Significantly, loud speakers were found to be massively used especially those located in small towns. The traffickers air messages to children and adults and pay for the ‘air time service’ of these loud speakers which cover a distance of about 5 kilometres. A case in point was Nyendo, a small suburb in Masaka town.

Local leaders mentioned that *they see people coming from Kampala and putting announcements on the public address system (loud speaker called Voice of Nyendo) located in the public taxi park that they are interested in children willing to work in town and the person recruiting has come. “Those interested please come in the morning. The person is at lodge Y”. In the morning they see children coming and upon selecting those needed by the recruiter, s/he boards the vehicle with several children.* The LCs failed ignorance about the practice they thought the gentleman was just helping children faced with poverty and HIV/ AIDS.

#### **g) Placement of poster adverts and announcements**

This was found to be used mainly by the traffickers both in the rural areas and small towns. The recruiters use paper poster seeking children interested in working. The recruiters indicate their mobile phones and contacts on the poster in that particular area. Indeed this method works and many children show up and are taken in the towns and city to work.

**h) Announcement**

Similarly, during ceremonies like burials, funeral rites, introductions and other community events like women gift circles called 'Nigiina', announcements requesting for children to work in urban areas are made.

**i) Activities of NGOs**

An officer working with a security organisation in Masaka observed that the activities of some NGOs such as distributing food and blankets to street children attract more children to come from rural to urban areas.

**j) Peers and friends**

Trafficked children are facilitated to recruit their peers and friends in their respective areas of origin on behalf of child traffickers. In one of the Focus Group Discussion held with five boys in Nakulabye, a suburb in Kampala city, the study team came to learn that girls who work as child domestic workers, strippers are used to lure their peers and colleagues to join them in their respective activities. It was noted that stripper groups comprising between 10-16 girls within Nakulabye area and each group performs at a specific bar such as New Life Bar, Era, Chez Johnson, Pool Joint, Mulongoti, Twins Pub and Munaku.

**k) Fishermen and Landing site.**

Landing sites on Lake Victoria such as Lambu, Bukakata, and Kanserero have fishermen who drink heavily and are habitual free spenders. These need children to help them in fishing related activities. In these areas, services of prostitutes and especially young girls are on high demand because young girls are considered to be HIV free and easy to exploit. A combination of lack of assertiveness, use of drugs and alcohol, unprotected sex and poverty has given rise to increasing numbers of teenage mothers and unwanted children found on the islands of Kalangala. These live in an environment which makes them vulnerable to further trafficking to other islands.

**3.2.9 Transportation of trafficked children**

The assessment study identified various means by which children are moved from their homes to their destinations. Table 15 shows that in majority of cases, children were moved by public transport such as commuter taxis, pick-ups and Lorries, motor cycles bicycles and boats were used.

Table 14: Method of transportation during trafficking

Means of transport	Male	Female	Percent
Car	27	18	24
Walking	27	20	24
Bus	12	29	18
Lorry	11	3	8
Plane	0	2	1
Others(taxis, bicycles & boats)	24	29	26

Note: the table represents multiple responses

In a FGD carried out with children from Karamoja in Busia, it was indicated that Children, especially from Karamoja come by the Gate Way Bus and usually guardians pay their bus fares. Other children from Tororo, Iganda, Mayuge and Mbale come on Lorries and pickups that ferry merchandise. These children usually have someone waiting for them at

their destinations that pays for the transport expenses.

**3.2.10 Harbours and transportation of trafficked children**

Findings indicate that most children (79 percent) were transported by only one agent. The remaining 21 percent involved more than one person.

Interviews with key informants showed that children do not in most cases move straight to their final destinations, but the whole journey is done in phases. Children are harboured in transit points usually in homes of agents before they are taken to their final destination. Other children stay with their friends and commanders before leaving for their final destinations. (see table below)

Table 15: Person who harboured the child

Person	Male	Female	Percent
Friend	18.0	22.7	19.7
Woman I didn't know	4.3	4.6	4.4
Person I came with	53.9	45.5	50.8
Others (Untie, commander)	23.9	27.3	25.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

**3.2.11 Trends in child trafficking**

The study established a seasonal trend in child trafficking:

- ▶ During key informants' interviews, it was reported that children in Karamoja tend to move during famine and drought seasons.
- ▶ When the UPDF and LRA signed cessation of hostilities agreement in September 2006, kidnap and abduction of children for war related activities reduced tremendously.
- ▶ Also, children in non conflict areas tend to be recruited more during Christmas festivities especially relying on false promises for making quick money and a better life in the city and when movement of children is greatest in holidays.
- ▶ Trafficking of children seems to be high during planting, harvesting and fishing seasons.

**3.2.12 Destination and activities carried out by Children**

High demand for cheap labour that is usually provided by children fuel the act of child trafficking. Trafficked children were recruited for a variety of activities as shown in the table below. Child domestic labour was the dominant activity done by trafficked children (21 percent) followed by market vendors (17 percent) and a noticeable percentage were involved in casual labour, commercial sex and fishing related activities.

Table 16: Activities carried out by respondents

Activity	Number	Percent
Housemaid/domestic worker	51	21
Market vending	42	17
Bar/Lodge/Restaurants Attendant	35	14
Fishing	28	11
Casual labour	21	8
Sex worker	8	3
Agricultural plantations	7	3
Smuggling	6	2
Available/looking for work	6	2
Scrap collection	6	2
Soldier	2	1
Housewife	1	0
Others	36	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

Children who work as bar, lodge and restaurants attendants many times are often involved in child commercial sex work. Other destinations for children also include agriculture plantations, fighting as combatants with rebel ranks smuggling of merchandise, working as casual labourer at building sites and factories, scrap metal collections and other end up in child marriages.

The Resident District Commissioner observed that, *“Children are promised jobs and a good life at their destination. They are not given the jobs they were promised, but put to work in bars and lodges. While in Busia, they are told to be in bars/lodges as the trafficker processes their travel documents. Later when their trafficker disappears or fails to get decent employment, the children turn into prostitution for their survival.”*

Contrary to popular opinion that child trafficking takes place from rural to urban areas, the study established that child trafficking also takes place from towns to villages especially to landing sites, agricultural plantations or fishing sites which have not been reached with interventions.

### 3.2.13 Modes of payments

Payment was investigated and respondents noted that majority were paid in monetary terms between 1000-2000 shillings (almost one dollar) per day, 25 percent were paid between 500-1000 shillings (half a dollar) per day. Another 14 were not paid at all and 11 percent were paid between 3000-4000 shillings per day and another paid between 5000-10,000 shillings per day. Overall girls appear to be the least paid and the most exploited. Most girls are not paid and when paid the highest they earn is 2,000/= shillings per performance in a bar which starts at 7.00pm and ends after 1.00am. Another mode of payment was provision of accommodation. Employers usually rent one room to accommodate over 10 girls hence their living quarters are too over-crowded. Some girls are used as sex workers by pimps and are usually paid between Shs.100/= to Shs.4,000/= every time they have sex. Those who refuse this pay are fired.

Table 17: Daily payment by sex

Amount in Ug.Shs	Male	Female	Percent
Not paid	8	25	14
500-1000	24	25	25
1000-2000	42	24	36
3000-4000	14	5	11
5000-10000	4	11	7
Others	8	10	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.2.14 Use of money paid to children

Money received by the children is mainly used to buy clothes and cosmetics (41 percent) followed by food (36 percent). Only 8.3 percent of the respondent's income is sent to their families. It was reported by children that the amount of money paid to them is too little to meet their basic needs thus very little is saved to send back to their families.

Table 18: Use of money paid to children

Item	Number	Percent
Buy clothes/cosmetics	95	41
Buy food	82	36
after family back home	19	8
Pay rent	4	2
Others	31	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.2.15 Source places, corridors and partners for internally trafficked children

The respondents noted that other children they meet who have been trafficked come mainly from the Masaka, Sembabule, Rakai and Lyantonde corridor. A social worker working with an NGO in Masaka agreed that there is a lot of trafficking of children both within Masaka town and the outskirts of Masaka (especially in the villages). She revealed that most of the trafficked children come from villages such as Lwabenge, Mpugwe, Kyajijja, Bukunda, Kalisizo, Kyotera, Butenga, Kawoko, Bukomansimbi, Nakiyaga and Mukungwe landing sites, Nkoni, Misanvu. A discussion with staff of Budukiro children's agency showed that the biggest population of children on the streets of Nyendo and Masaka towns are from Sembabule a place 20 miles away from these two places. He further revealed that there are few cases of children being trafficked from Tanzania to Uganda.

The Masaka, Sembabule, Rakai and Lyantonde corridor is followed by another group of children trafficked in the war zone which include Gulu, Pader, Kitgum and Lira. These are moved towards Sudan mainly from Kampala city and sometimes from southern Uganda.

Another corridor famous for child trafficking is the Moroto-Karamoja area. The numbers of Karimojong group has swelled in the recent times on the streets exceeding that of other children thus prompting government to draw up a strategy to remove them on the streets.

Another source place identified is the Jinja, Iganga and Kamuli area. Children also highlighted Luwero, Wakiso, Mityana and Mubende corridor as another source.

It was also noted that movements of children take a certain pattern. For example children trafficked from western Uganda tend to be attracted to areas of high and similar tribal concentration e.g. Bafumbira in Kamwokya slums and Batooro in Nankulabye slums and this provides a base for transit.

Table 19: Districts of origin of trafficked children

District	Number	Boys (%)	Girls (%)
Masaka	61	28	28
Mbale	21	10	37
Karamoja	11	5	42
Mbarara	11	5	47
Others	115	53	
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>154</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.2.16 Cross-border child trafficking

Cross-border trafficking is one of the issues which has eluded actors involved in the fight against the inhuman act at various levels.

According to the findings 39 percent of the children interviewed acknowledged that children were recruited and transported across borders. Another 61 percent did not have any idea. Stories about the existence of child slavery of children trafficked from Uganda continue to be published. Reports of children being exchanged for guns at the same Uganda-Sudan border recently appeared in newspapers. (Look for the newspaper) Other children from Uganda are deceived that they are to study in Kenya and Tanzania only to be whisked to the Middle East to work as slaves. In some cases children are kidnapped from Kampala. 39 percent of children interviewed had knowledge about cross-border child trafficking.

### 3.2.17 Net works and Facilitation for cross- border trafficking

During the study, it was established from children and key informants that trafficked children are facilitated by traffickers and middlemen with accommodation, food, travel documents and transport. Those trafficked to Dubai and UAE are provided with travel documents and air tickets by traffickers who in most cases are not known to the children. Children who are trafficked to Europe and America, it is usually agents (some times relatives/guardians) who have lived in these places who facilitate their air tickets and visas through middlemen, religious institutions and some NGOs. Most children in cross-border trafficking are taken mainly for CSEC and domestic work.

Other children are facilitated by long distance drivers who promise them wonderful employment and or rosy marriages across the borders along the Trans East African highway from Mombassa sea port- Kenya through Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda to Democratic Republic of Congo.

Networks of cross-border traffickers mainly have their bases in salons, shops in Kampala city business centre; and

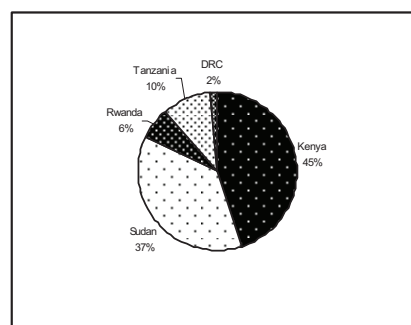
these usually connect girls to Dubai city of the United Arab Emirates. It was also noted during a focus group discussion in Busia border town, that pimps at bar, brothels and lodge owner are involved in cross border trafficking directly recruiting and serving as transit points.

Interactions with key informants indicated that cross border traffickers are more organised with clandestine elite networks, as compared to the internal traffickers who seem to operate informally. Cross-border traffickers arrange safe passages which elude official border points. Many times local leaders see people acquainted to them moving with children on foot but assume these are children being taken to smuggle goods.

### 3.2.18 Destination countries for children from Uganda

Countries mentioned as destination for children from Uganda were: Kenya ranked high at 51percent, followed by Sudan at 39 percent, Tanzania at six percent, Rwanda at three percent and DRC one percent.

Figure 3: Destination countries for trafficked children



A key informant in Kampala had this to say about cross-border trafficking:

*Yes, we have heard of cross-border recruitment and transportation/ trafficking of children. The people involved are Congolese, Sudanese, and Somalia's among many. Children during cross-border recruitment and transportation/ trafficking go to areas of; Sudan, Congo, Somalia, Kenya and many others. Yes, we know of children recruited and brought in this area to work from other countries. They are Congolese who come as refugees'.*

It was noted during FGDs that most children are trafficked to Kenya because of the existence of more opportunities for commercial sex and marriages. Kenya also acts as a convenient transit point and gateway to the Middle East and other continents.

Uganda is also a destination country for children from far Asia especially from India, Pakistan, and China. Children from these countries are trafficked into the country disguised as cultural dancers on short term visits. In addition, children from Somalia are trafficked into the country disguised as refugees. A key informant at the American Bar Association office confirmed that indeed Uganda was becoming a destination-transit country more than a supply one".

The above statements support the fact that Uganda is a mixture of source, transit and destination for child

trafficking.

### 3.2.19 Treatment and happenings to trafficked children

Trafficked children are subjected to many and sometimes multiple horrible experiences. Most of the trafficked children are engaged in worst forms of child labour. Children revealed that the following unfortunate events occurred to them; worked in businesses, fought as combatants with rebels, killed, used as sex slaves, married off, and involved in commercial sex. Others were recruited as drug dealers, smugglers while others were abandoned at destination points.

Table 20: Events in the lives of recruited children

Events	Number	Percent
Work in business	25	20
Rebels	20	16
Killed	14	11
Sex slaves	13	10
Married	13	10
Commercial sex	12	9
Others	12	9
Drug dealers	9	7
Smuggling	5	4
Abandoned	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

It was observed during the study that during transportation, trafficked children could be involved in certain tasks and behaviours different from those at final destinations. It has also been noted that at the destination, a child could be assigned more multiple tasks. For example, working in bar meant serving drinks, satisfying sexual demands of clients and strip dancing.

### CASE STUDY 3 of girl involved in Karaoke dancing

*A 17 year old female living in Nakulabye was convinced and trafficked by peers from Namungoona 3 years ago. She left school and has been in a karaoke group for 3 years. She has worked with 3 groups namely; Aftermath, fantasies and Grooven clan. At the moment she is not working for any group. She is hired out once in a while. She quit the group after her pay was cut from 8,000/= to 4,000/= shillings per performance. This money covered both feeding and transport which was so little. She joined her peers group because she wanted to kill boredom and also wanted to make some money.*

*Challenges as enumerated by the girl included shows ending very late past 2.30am, decrease in her payments, lack of transport and poor feeding. She noted that as you get used to the system, the employer takes you for granted and does not meet your demands. She also observed that there were rivalries among girls within the group over men customers who pay for sex. Lack of job security and sharing of clothes amongst group members leads to contracting skin diseases. Again, poor hygiene among group members, usually living in overcrowded rooms. Rampant*

*drug use e.g. marijuana and khat among them to overcome stage fright, get more courage to do nude dancing and sexual pain with customers. No organization has ever come up to help. She recommended that girls should be trained in vocational skills and given money to start small businesses.*

### 3.3 Assessment of work conditions and lifestyles of trafficked children

During the study it was revealed that trafficked children are involved in worst forms of child labour which are dangerous and injurious to their lives. Most children are forced to work for long hours extending deep into the night. Some are exposed to hazardous working conditions often resulting into physical bodily harm depression and sexual harassment.

There is a gender dimension to the hazards that are experienced by working children. In as much all children are exposed to all hazards, it was noted that boys work longer hours extending into the night, experience physical harm, and depressions while girls experience slightly more of sexual harassments as well as working long hours and physical harm.

Table 21: Hazards encountered by children

Hazard	Male	Female	Percent
Working long hours	33.3	29.1	31
Physical harm/wounds	16.9	14.5	16
Depression	15.6	12.8	16
Working at night	14.8	11.1	14
Others	10.1	6.8	1
Sexual harassment	3.4	19.7	1
Exposure to chemical	4.2	0.9	3
Defilement	1.7	5.1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Cases</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>218</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

The major causes of hazards are working long hours (31 percent) and too much work (29 percent). These were followed by being beaten by customers (9 percent) and rape/sexual abuse (11 percent) and assault by client's wife (8 percent). During an interview with a key informant, it was noted that Violence and sexual abuse are among the most serious frightening hazards facing children. Children are sexually abused, beaten and severely starved. Some girls are raped and defiled and end up getting pregnant and sometimes contracting HIV/AIDS.

Table 22: Causes of general hazards to children

Hazard	Percent		
	Male	Female	Total
Worked for long hours	32	29	31
Too much work	34	21	29
Beaten by customer	9	8	9
Raped/sexually abused	4	15	8
Assaulted by client's wife	2	12	6
Others	19	12	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Cases</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>169</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.3.1 Representation of hazardous activities by district

Hazardous activities were reported in all districts covered by the study. The following cases highlight some hazardous activities some study districts.

#### ▪ Carrying heavy luggage's

Masaka district had many children who were carrying heavy luggage in markets, landing sites and small suburbs such as Nyendo.

In Busia town, smuggling of goods across the border is a common practice. Many businessmen and handicapped businessmen use children to smuggle general merchandise in small quantities for a small fee. Many children were not residents of the place and had been brought in to provide cheaper labour at a token fee. Smuggling is a risky activity since smugglers are usually shot by the anti-smuggling unit at the border point.

In Pader district in northern Uganda where war has been raging for the last 20 years, child soldiers were given heavy loads to carry during combat.

#### ▪ Pornography

Masaka had the highest number of pornography cases followed by Kampala and Busia districts.

▪ **Early Marriages** were very widespread in Kalangala followed by Busia and almost non existence in Pader.

▪ **Selling and smuggling** drugs were very common in Busia, followed by Kalangala and Masaka.

▪ **Physical torture**, physical abuse and assault were more common in Kampala, Kalangala, had Masaka.

Table 23: Activities considered risky for trafficked children by district

Activity	Busia	Kalangala	K'ia	Masaka	Pader	Total
Carrying heavy luggage	48	22	31	56	32	20
Physical torture/beatings	29	36	44	31	19	18
Working for long hours	25	40	44	11	28	17
Selling and smuggling drugs	50	36	22	22	0	14
Pornography	29	16	34	42	11	14
Early marriage	25	58	20	14	0	13
Fighting with rebels	13	2	5	3	4	3
Killing	0	2	2	8	4	2
Others	0	2	2	0	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.3.2 Social- economic problems

Trafficked children face a myriad of social economic problems. Non-payment by clients or employers was the most common socio-economic problem followed by homelessness and unemployment. Others mentioned were police harassment, sexual abuse by employers and negative public attitude as seen in table 24 below.

The study established that there was no significant gender differential in regard to poor and non payments by employers and homelessness although girls reported more

sexual harassment by employers.

Table 24: Social - economic problems by sex

Social - economic problems	Male	Female	Total
Poor/non-payment by clients/employers	59	59	59
Homelessness	36	20	31
Unemployment	26	25	26
Arrest by police/other Authorities	25	19	23
Sexual abuse by employers	10	35	18
Public attitude	8	8	8
Others	7	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>173</b>

### 3.3.3 Risky activities children engaged in

Children were found to be involved in a number of risky activities that are outlawed. Drug abuse (37 percent) ranked highly followed by smuggling of goods and drugs (21 percent), commercial sex (19 percent) and armed robbery, (5 percent). One key informant observed:

*Because of desperation, girls end up engaging in commercial sex after being abandoned by their employers, for this matter therefore, they resort to commercial sex as their only mode of survival. Boys engage in scrap collection and petty thefts and sometimes robbery.*

In terms of gender, the children stated that drug abuse, smuggling of goods and trafficking of children, though common in both gender, it was more prevalent among boys. Commercial sex on the other hand was more a girl's problem than boys. Armed robbery was sited more as a boys' problem especially in Pader district.

Table 25: Risky activities children engage in by sex

Risky activity	Male	Female	Total
Drug abuse	67	41	58
Smuggling of goods/drugs	35	27	32
Commercial sex	7	73	29
Trafficking of other children	12	14	12
Others	16	5	12
Armed robbery	12	0	8
Fighting/killing with rebels	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>156</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.3.4 Persuasion of children to get involved in the risky activities

Most children who end up in risky activities are mainly influenced by friends, traffickers, parents and self consideration as shown in the table below.

Table 26: Person persuaded children to get involved in the activity by gender.

Person	Male	Female	Total
Friend	44	38	41
Others	23	35	27
Trafficker	18	13	16
Self consideration	15	10	13
Parent	15	6	12
Brother operator	0	2	1

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.3.5 Social outings

Social outings help to show how children who are trafficked spend part of their time. Children spend more time in video halls (38 percent) and discotheques (15 percent). These are primary socialisation places for children. In these

places, children get in touch with other older children and eventually get introduced to immoral behaviour. Other common socialisation places included bars (7 percent) and drama (6 percent). Music, dance and drama shows were emerging as secondary outing places.

Table 27: Place of social outings

Place	Male	Female	Total
Cinema/video hall	58	25	47
Others	27	40	31
Discotheque	20	18	19
Bar	7	15	9
Drama shows	7	8	8
Musical shows	5	3	5
Hotel/lodge	2	8	4
Restaurant	2	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>126</b>

### 3.3.6 Risky behaviours engaged in by children

Children who are trafficked many times fall victims of dangerous and unsafe behaviours. Some of the behaviours have along lasting impact on the physical and mental state of the child. Interviews with children revealed that drug abuse (26 percent) was the most common risky behaviour that children engage in followed by abusive languages (25 percent), violence (19 percent) and unprotected sex (18 percent). It was noted that in most instances children were persuaded by peers and forced by circumstances to engage in these risky behaviours; for instance children commercially exploited and street children sniffed drugs to withstand hard living, pain, stress and working conditions.

Table 28: Risky behaviours children engaged in

Risky behaviours	Number	Percent
Drugs abuse	118	26
Abusive language	116	25
Violence	87	19
Unprotected sex	83	18
Killing with rebels	24	5
Others	22	5
None	9	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

It was established that more boys and girls were engaged in drug abuse, abusive language, violence and unprotected sex. All those behaviours in one way or another contribute risks of contracting HIV.

Table 29: Risky behaviour by gender

Risky behaviour	Male	Female
Drugs abuse	56	34
Abusive language	51	43
Violence	44	20
Unprotected sex	32	41
Killing	11	8
Others	7	15
None	3	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>168</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

### 3.3.7 Previous activities done by children

It was observed that most trafficked children were not engaged in any risky, hazardous or exploitative work.

Table 30: Previous activities done by children before coming to the current place

Previous activity	Number	Percent
Never worked	61	31
Student	37	19
Others	35	18
Unemployed	31	13
Petty trading	20	10
Housemaid	10	5
Bar/Lodge/restaurants attendant	5	3
Housewife	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

It can be deduced from the above table that more children (31 percent) of the children had never worked before. Those who had worked before were involved more in petty trading (17 percent). It was observed that even those

## CHAPTER FOUR

# Child Soldiers and other Children affected by armed conflict in Northern Uganda.

children who were in school were trafficked.

### Introduction

This section presents child trafficking for child soldiers in the war zone of northern Uganda. The study was conducted in Pader, one of the five districts affected by war. It looks at the recruitment methods, the people who are involved in this inhuman act and factors that perpetuate trafficking. Activities done by children apart from fighting in combat, the hazards they face and brutality subjected to them are also presented. Specific interventions to address the problem have been recommended.

### 4.1 Age and Parental status of former child soldiers victims.

The study interviewed 47 ex-child soldiers; 26 males and 21 females. Though 56 children were interviewed, nine ex-child soldiers did not complete the questionnaire. They broke down during the interviews and interviews were discontinued. Most child soldier interviewed were in the age 12 years (26 percent) followed by 17 years (21 percent) 14 years (17 percent) respectively. Those of 13 years and 15 were 13 percent each respectively.

Most of the ex-soldiers interviewed (74 percent) of children interviewed in the war-affected areas were orphans; 21 percent had parents while 5 percent did not know their parental status. Most children interviewed (62 percent) were staying with relatives. Most children in Pader lost their parents to the war in the area.

Table 31: Background profiles of Former child soldiers

Age	Male	Female	Total	Percent
12	5	7	12	26
13	3	3	6	13
14	6	2	8	17
15	4	2	6	13
16	1	4	5	11
17	4	6	10	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Orphan hood status</b>				
Orphan hood status	Male	Female	Total	Percent
Non orphan	7	3	10	21
orphan	17	18	35	74
Don't Know	2	0	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Whom Child stay with</b>				
Whom Child stay with	male	female	Total percent	Percent
Myself	2	3	5	11
My employer	1	5	4	8
Non relative	5	4	9	19
<b>Relatives</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4.2 Recruitment of child soldiers

Recruitment of children in is one of exploitations which are prohibited by Conventions 182 and other conventions. Available literature indicates that over 30,000 children were abducted by the LRA and conscripted into the rebel ranks. To date 8,000 children are yet still unaccounted for.

The major purposes of trafficking children were mainly to replenish the LRA ranks especially by boys. Girls were to serve as wives and also meet sexual needs of the commanders, assist in fetching water, carry ammunitions and merchandise, search, carry and cook food and also provide labour when needed.

It was also revealed by key informants in the focus group discussion that boys and girls were traded and exchanged for guns, domestic workers and other forms of servitude like early marriage among the Sudan community for money, food and ammunition. The key informants noted that the LRA also acted as middle men for Sudanese traffickers who moved children further north and to the Middle East.

Table 32: Recruitment methods in a war zone

Method of recruitment	Male	Female	Percent
Kidnapped/Abducted	77	38	55
Forced by parent/guardians	15	13	14
Enticed by peers	8	50	31
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The findings have revealed that over 55 percent of the children including boys and girls were recruited by kidnapping. During one of the focus groups in Pader district, one Local Leader noted that LRA rebels just stormed the villages and abducted all able-bodied people including children between 10 and 17 years. These were expected to replenish the LRA ranks, carry looted goods, cook food and provide labour when needed. Girls were distributed as wives and also used to meet sexual needs of the commanders. Children who collapsed long the way were caned and those who failed to escape were killed with pangas to discourage others not to escape.

Table 32 again indicates that 31 percent of the children were enticed by their peers to join the LRA. Interviews with children and local leaders also revealed that the abduction of children involved a chain of collaborators. It was discovered that there was systematic recruitment which was well-coordinated among rebel leaders and their commanders. Collaborators facilitated the identification, location and kidnap of children in big numbers, some times more than five children from one family to replenish the LRA ranks. Collaborators played a dual role of acting as informers for rebel expeditions and Uganda People's

Defence Forces (UPDF) troop movements and locating places where to undertake raids, to loot merchandise and particular homes where these children reside.

The LRA specifically violates Article 4 (3) © under Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 ‘Children who have not attained the age of 15 years shall neither be recruited in the armed forces or group nor allowed to take part in hostilities.’ This protocol relates to the protection of victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts.

#### 4.2.1 Forcing by parents and threats to be killed

It was revealed by the parent informants in Pader that there were cases ‘forced consent’ among the parents and threats of killing them in case they refused. Some parents surrendered their children to join rebels because they had a problem of feeding children, while others expected returns after rebels had overthrown the government. All these abduction complaints including the number of children abducted were registered by local leaders.

#### 4.2.2 Other traffickers of children in war zone

Although the notorious LRA are the main child traffickers in this area, it was also stated by the key informants that the Karimojong community made raids in Pader district and many times looted cattle and abducted children especially young girls for sex slaves and boys to provide free manual labour. Many of those who resist abduction got killed.

Children in Pader were usually moved by rebels to Lakanya in South Sudan Amanyala Bule, Palenga, Abokne, Pataupola for military training. Other children were trained by rebels in Pader, a key army informant noted.

In Pader, other non-combat children, including those withdrawn from the LRA ranks were also recruited mostly by relatives with consent of parents and guardians. These were enticed with money and other small gifts like clothing and sugar and children were moved to other areas such as Gulu, Kitgum Lira and as far as Kampala. It was said that most of these children mainly worked as child domestic workers, others worked in the plantations, fishing areas in Agago and Lamogi, and brick laying areas in towns.

The study has revealed that majority of children recruited as child soldiers and those affected by trafficking in the war zone were moved on foot led by LRA rebel commanders in the jungle to rebel bases in Uganda. Other abducted children were moved across the border to Sudan and most recently to DRC to replenish the LRA rebel ranks. Commanders were under strict instructions to keep children and none was to disappear. Many of these children were made to walk long distances for hours and hours in all cases, save those who moved south who used vehicles.

The UPDF has also been implicated in several incidences by IOM for child trafficking. It was mentioned that Uganda soldiers brought with them young girls when they were withdrawing from DRC in 2005. Some of these girls had been married to the Ugandan soldiers. Some of these are stranded and would wish to go back and IOM has established an office in Gulu to repatriate the girls back to DRC.

It has also been noted by Save the Children in Uganda and UNICEF that the auxiliary forces of Local Defence Units (LDUs) such as Amuka boys have recruited almost over 1,500 children into their ranks to help in protecting the Internally Displaced People’s (IDPs) camps and other places in the war zones. This is contrary to Prelimo Protocol which prohibits use of children in military undertakings. UPDF together with other development partners are working hard to eliminate such children who had been recruited.

### 4.3 Child Trafficking in Internally Displaced People’s camps

The 20 year insurgency has led to displacement of many thousands of people and claming them into the several camps in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira. By 2006, between 1.2 and 1.4 million people were displaced by fighting between government of Uganda forces and Lords Resistance Movement (LRA). Camps became easy targets for rebels to raid and abduct children until UPDF and its auxiliary forces strengthened their patrol. The displacement of people was aggravated by poverty, general breakdown of social infrastructure and dysfunctional families thus making children more vulnerable to trafficking by rebels and their collaborators.

### 4.4 Activities and destinations:

Understanding activities done by the children was helpful in interpreting the WFCL exposed to them.

Table 33: Activities done by children

Activities	Percentage
Carrying heavy luggage	32
Working for long hours	28
Physical torture/beating	19
Sexual and Pornography	11
Working with rebels	4
Killing	4
Others	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Note, multiple responses were given

Most activities mainly carried out by children in the LRA rebel ranks varied but included carrying heavy luggage like ammunition, food, sick and other merchandises (32 percent), fighting alongside rebels (28 percent), which some times involved killing government forces. Children mentioned that every child had to be trained militarily to fend off the rebel groups in case of attack by government soldiers. Other activities involved physical torture and beating of rebellious colleagues and those who wanted to escape, (19 percent). Children had also been involved in killing rebellious colleagues and people in raided villages (4 percent).

Former rebel captive Y aged 16 years said “*Child abductees are forced to beat and sometimes kill civilians during looting operations, participate in the abduction of new children, and steal from and burn houses in their home regions. Children are forced to witness and to participate in the killings of other children, usually those who attempt*

to escape and are captured”.

Girls mentioned that they had to meet the sexual demands of rebel commanders and served as sex slaves (11 percent). It was revealed by one former Child soldier that one commander could have more than three girls that he could use as his wives. Young rebels abducted girls and used them as sex slaves; those who refused many times were always killed. Gang sexual rape by rebels and other forms of sexual abuse caused some girls to get pregnant. Other girls were infected with STDs and had no access to drugs.

Other slave-like activities children in rebel ranks performed were carrying wounded soldiers for long hours after clashes with government soldiers. It was also reported that children were used to undertake raids in Uganda and southern Sudan to abduct more children, fetch water, search for food, steal merchandise and collect firewood. Children informants said they were also cooking for the rebels, digging in their gardens; as well as babysitting for wives of commanders. The ruthless treatment subjected to children in war zones had devastating physical and psychological effect on abducted children.

#### Differences between trafficking in war zone and non-conflict areas

Trafficking in war zones targeted children above 12 years for recruiting as child soldiers. In non-war zones, movements started a little bit earlier in terms of age for boys. Girls came in later and their number far exceeded that of boys.

#### 4.5 Death and brutality of child soldiers in combat carried out by children

Many key informants and children interviewed noted that children died during rebel activities and were the most vulnerable during fighting. Many of those who were sent on reconnaissance missions, fell into ambushes and were killed. A big number who wanted to abscond from rebel activities once caught were severely beaten with over 100 strokes.

One boy John O. aged 15 years who escaped during captivity said: *“I was carrying corn maize ‘posho’ as we moved; the bag fell and burst the posho poured. The commander said they give us 100 strokes and told another 10 children to give me another 10 strokes each”.*

Children also noted that other brutal treatment children underwent involved killing by fellow children- child soldier using pangas while others looked on as a sign to deter others from running away.

*One Kenneth .O aged 16 years noted that a child could be killed in their presence, in order to instil fear and ensure that there is no chance for them to escape. There was no respect for human life.*

Another formerly abducted child noted that *“a piece of wire that is normally used for locking a bicycle is also used for punishing us. Other times, the wooden end or the blunt side of a machete is also used to hit the buttocks of a child. Soldiers beat John using both during his seven months with the LRA rebels”.*

Those who fell sick during captivity lost their lives because

there was no medical treatment most of the time. Some children are now disabled because they were wounded in war situations involving land mines.

#### 4.6 Domestic legislation and use of children in armed conflict.

Several legal instruments exist in Uganda which has a bearing on children in armed conflict.

##### Ratification of United Nations Protocols

In spite the fact that Uganda has ratified several International instruments including, the Option protocol to the Convention on the Rights of child (CRC-OP-AC) on the Involvement of the children in armed conflict 6<sup>th</sup> May 2002. The armed conflict affecting children in northern Uganda continues to violate the Uganda Constitution 1995 which has domesticated most international laws, which obliges the state to protect its citizens.

##### Children Act (Cap 59) 2000, and Uganda People Defence Force Act no 7 of 2005.

The engagement of children in conflicts also undermines the Children Act cap 59) 2000, and Uganda People Defence Forces Act no 7 of 2005, both which outlaw involvement of persons under the age of 18 years in the national armed forces.

##### Amnesty Act 2000 (Cap. 294)

Uganda has taken some positive strides towards ending the armed conflict through the enactment of the Amnesty Act. Government has enacted the Amnesty Act 2000 (Cap 294), to pardon former combatants and collaborators, including children, if they renounce and abandon armed rebellion. This is aimed at encouraging a peaceful resolution to the rebellion, particularly by the LRA in Northern Uganda. The provision therein provides for a Commission with regional offices to grant amnesty.

In addition, the Ministry of Gender, labour and Social Development report indicated that out of the 30,000 children forcefully recruited, over 25,000 have returned, escaped or been rescued by UPDF. About 6000 children are still unaccounted for<sup>72</sup>.

The government of Uganda with the support of the World bank’s Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-integration programme is supporting the Amnesty Commission to resettle formerly abducted children, though figures were not easy to get.

##### Justice and the role of International Criminal court (ICC)

The Rome Statute came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.it created the International criminal court in The Hague. In December 2003 the Uganda government announced that

<sup>72</sup>See the implementation of the optional protocol to convention on the rights of the child on involvement of children in armed conflict. First periodic report. Ministry of gender, labour and social development may 2006.

Joseph Kony and his other commanders will be referred to ICC for prosecution. On 13 October 2005, the ICC issued arrest warrants for LRA leader, Joseph Kony, and four of his commanders. The five are accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity including murder, abduction, sexual enslavement, mutilation and forced recruitment of children. Kony and his commanders must be brought to book to account for the huge numbers of children who were involved in combat, those who disappeared and the heinous crimes committed with impunity against humanity. The ICC has indicted him with his commanders. This appears to be a strong deterring tool which may bar him from other actions. Joseph Kony must cooperate and surrender all the children in his captivity and account for those traded for guns.

Other legal provisions are in place to criminalise the recruitment of children and their inclusion that crimes as victims or witnesses. These are:

- ▶ Uganda Constitution 1995, article 34(4&6)
- ▶ Labour laws prohibiting use of children
- ▶ UPDF court-martial. Soldiers who have abused women and children have been tried by the army court and convicted.

There are also other safeguards against holding children liable for the crimes they committed during their stay with armed forces. These codes include:

- ▶ The Amnesty Act 2000, where children are given immunity when they seek amnesty.
- ▶ The Penal Code Act (Cap 106), exempts children below 12 years from any criminal responsibility. Once formerly abducted children are received, they are immediately transferred to reception centres for psycho social support and re-integration with their families.

#### **4.7 Efforts undertaken to address the problem of ex-child soldiers**

The study established that there were several actors involved in interventions to assist children affected in war area especially formerly abducted children (FAC). The field work and interviews with children and key informants showed that such services were: -

- ▶ Psychosocial rehabilitation (counselling, drama and music, re-integration, vocational skills training, Prevention, withdraw and rehabilitation).
- ▶ Community sensitisation and advocacy programs, cultural reconciliations, emergency responses and stigmatisation, recreation services, training teachers on psychosocial support.
- ▶ Amnesty Commission: Provides amnesty by Act 2003, demobilise, reintegrate and resettle former rebels. Settles crimes committed by children and offers immunity and a resettlement package, transfers children to reception centres.
- ▶ Child protection Unit of the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) screens all children returnees and thereafter hands them over to NGOS for psycho social rehabilitation and community re-integration.

- ▶ Educational needs of FAC, networking, training teachers in psychosocial support.
- ▶ United Nations agencies such as the World Food Programme have provided food and other relief items to affected children and their families.

Notable, NGOs mentioned during the interview were include local and international NGOs and UN agencies. They include:

##### **Local NGOs**

Rachele Rehabilitation centre, Gulu Support the Children organization (GUSCO), Kitgum Concerned Women's Association (KICWA), Acholi Education Initiative (AEI), Concerned Parents Association (CPA), War Affected Children Organisation. Others include Associanzione Volontari Peril Servizio Internazionale (AVSI) Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas all these support Psycho-social support, educational needs of former child soldiers. Others also are Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR), Save the Children Fund, and World Vision International.

##### **International NGOs**

AMREF, Save the Children Fund, Feed the Children and US government have provided a lot of funding to government and NGOs in the reintegration and support to formerly abducted children.

##### **UN agencies**

UNICEF has negotiated for the return of abducted and trafficked children, United nations office for coordination of Humanitarian affairs(UNOCHA) and WFP which provided food for the internally displaced people and children under psycho social rehabilitation. ILO has seemingly been absent in war northern Uganda. Save for the CDW project in Lira town by Platform for Labour Action.

##### **Challenges of assisting ex-child soldiers**

- ▶ There is a problem of stigma and social exclusion of ex-child soldiers by the community often leading to depression and stress. The servitude children went through shows the highest level of WFCL and exploitation.
- ▶ Some children who were rescued and had once passed through rehabilitation centres have to return to the camps where they are at risk of being abducted or trafficked and moved to non war zone again.
- ▶ Children who had been abducted and conscripted in rebel ranks could not fit in their communities and preferred to be in the rebel ranks partly due to indoctrination and the privilege to loot and cause havoc un-interrupted.
- ▶ There were also a general ignorance among the army, children, parents and local leaders about protocol on involvement of children in armed conflict and others to do with ILO conventions on WFCL especially in war affected areas.
- ▶ The study also noted from the key informants that there was silent support for the war among the local populations which makes it difficult to end these heinous crimes.

## 4.8 Suggestions for addressing the issue of child soldiers in Uganda

### Training Law enforcement agencies and communities.

The army, Police and other auxiliary forces like the Local defence units (LDUs), and Amuka boys should be trained in Child labour issues, optional protocols, Child trafficking Convention such 182 and others related to trafficking and use of children in combat and their eventual exploitation.

### Children Campaigns

Children, including formerly abducted children should be involved in campaigns against child trafficking and child soldiers through enlisting their views. This can be done using drama, music, radio and poems, etc.

### Livelihood skills and vocational skills

Former children need to be empowered with positive livelihood skills and other vocational skills, including other therapies like sports, music, testimonies and traditional methods of dealing with stigma and stress that appear to be very common. The conflict has gone on for so long almost over 20 years, individuals and communities have been disoriented and divided with increased intolerance for former rebels and child soldiers. There is a need to undertake activities which promote human rights, peace building and tolerance for each other. There is also a need to deal with the misinformation about the war and its danger on human beings, insecurity in the region and lawlessness.

### Facilitation of Labour officers and probation officers

Labour and probation officers as the lead persons in child protection issues in the country should be facilitated with transport and funding to establish Child Protection Committees (CPC) in villages to help the formulation of bi-laws, monitoring, disseminate information and follow up issues of trafficking, child soldiers and other WFCL. Through working with CPC, probation and labour officers should increase awareness on trafficking through radios, community workshops and literature. Dialogue should also be promoted between CPC and communities affected to increase alertness to trafficking and WFCL and report to local authorities.

The officers also need to coordinate efforts addressing FAC, raise the issue of WFCL and put it high on the agenda among districts authorities and key stakeholders. They should also assist in monitoring and tracking all activities geared withdrawal and prevention of trafficking of children and others in WFCL.

### Psycho-social support and victim programmes.

The rapid assessment revealed an array of actors assisting formerly abducted children with a variety of programmes. There is however, a multiplicity of children's needs which were not comprehensively addressed. A stake holder's analysis is important to identify gaps, opportunities and challenges of re-trafficking for other WFCL in non-war zones. Children take themselves as combatants and have

gone through a lot of indoctrination. Many of these who have been rescued or escaped are uncertain of their future, in spite of the fact that Ugandan Government has a policy of reintegration. The fact that although the children who manage to escape from the LRA, often committed gross human rights abuses themselves, they are first and foremost victims and need a strong therapeutic treatment among the several actors located in their areas.

### Increase awareness, strengthen law enforcement, and undertake psychosocial support and poverty for Nomadic groups.

There other groups like the Karimojong nomadic warriors involved in abduction and trafficking of children close to the war zones and south wards to non war zone. Efforts must be taken through the strategies suggested to increase awareness, strengthen law enforcement, and undertake psychosocial support and poverty alleviation in the areas.

### Demobilisation of children recruited in the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF).

Efforts by the Uganda government to demobilise children recruited with or without their consent in the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and Local defence units and other auxiliary forces be supported.

ILO and Ministry of Gender through the Child Labour Unit (CLU) needs to work closely with other United Nations development partners to:

- Support Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) plan of demobilization of child soldiers in their auxiliary forces,
- Strengthen the implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks on the recruitment and use of children.
- Put in place enforceable guidelines and training of military personnel to prevent such cases child recruitment from recurring and deal with other WFCL.
- Government seriously considers enacting legislation which explicitly prohibits by law the recruitment of children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces/groups, their direct participation in hostilities and punish civilian abettors of child recruitment.
- Assist establishment and supporting those doing some work in vocational training and livelihood promotions and other psychosocial- victim support.
- Works with Child Protection Advisors recommended by United Nations Security Council to monitors issues of using children in the army and abettors of such acts.

### ILO and other development partners

- Provide adequate resources and funding to key stakeholders, for the rehabilitation and reintegration of all children that are withdrawn from rebel activity and those that have been associated with armed forces and other WFCL.
- Assistance should be targeted towards the development of relevant and effective programmatic action plans which reinforces the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for children

in their communities and ensuring long-term sustainability and success of such interventions.

- Identify Child protection advisor on issues of trafficking and use of children in combat, to help monitor the situations, gather data and reports and help in dissemination of C-182 and other conventions as well as training.

## **Conclusion**

The problem of recruiting children into child soldiers is real not only with LRA where most cases done thorough abduction, peers instilling fear to parents by systematic recruitment of children by rebel collaborators. Other government militias have recruited children too.

Children have been involved in fighting, carrying heavy luggage and serving as sex slaves to commanders. Some children lost their lives, while others have been exchanged for guns and other merchandise to people in Sudan and the Middle East. Affected Former child soldiers cited brutal hazards, especially working long hours and walking long distances; coupled with carrying heavy loads of ammunition, merchandise, food, and other loot. This caused a lot of physical strain and emotionally torture.

In non war-zone no efforts were made to register complaints of trafficked children.

The response to assist former child soldiers has been high. there are several responses to address the former child soldier problems by civil society assisted by the Development partners as well as government. There was a varied understanding on protocols and psycho-social skills. Gaps also exist in appreciating the WFLC associated with children in combat, a role which ILO can play.

Though there several responses to the problem of children involved in armed conflict mainly by civil society organisations; some interventions were noted to be lacking and not focused and giving services in piecemeal. Governments must be engaged regularly and action programmes be established to address this heinous crime. In this section we highlight the various efforts in place that aim to bring about improved victim protection, and prevention of this heinous crime.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Efforts in Combating of Child trafficking in Uganda

In this section we highlight the various efforts in place that aim to bring about improved victim protection, and prevention of this heinous crime.

#### 5.1 Prevention and Withdrawal

The study was interested to establish from the children whether there are children who have been prevented and withdrawn from the practice trafficking.

##### Withdrawal

It was noted that 59 percent of the children had not heard of any withdrawn children from trafficking, while 41 percent observed that there were programmes for withdrawing children from WFCL. Interventions assisting children have mainly concentrated on reaching out to street children (53 percent), child domestic workers (34 percent), and adolescent in commercial sexual exploitation (10 percent). Children and adults were largely uninformed about services that assist children affected by trafficking. A discussion with staff at ILO-IPEC has shown that several interventions have been previously supported. Table 34 below shows the categories of children targeted by NGOs and government interventions.

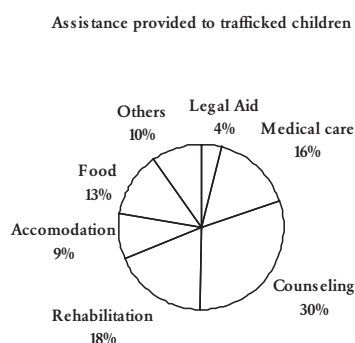
Table 34: Target group of trafficked children

Target group	Number	Percent
Street children	58	53
Commercial sexual exploitation( CSEC)	11	10
Child domestic workers	37	33
Children in smuggling	4	4
Children abducted for war	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: the table represents multiple responses

The type of assistance received by trafficked children ranged from counselling, medical care, rehabilitation, food and accommodation a small percentage mentioned legal assistance. As shown in figure 4 below

Figure 4: Assistance received by children



#### 5.2 Challenges in accessing services for formerly trafficked children.

The research was interested in establishing the troubles and inconveniences children of this nature meet in trying to access the services. The respondents noted that the long distance to service centres, lack of facilitations, unfriendly service providers, stigma and low self-esteem were the main problems encountered in accessing the services as shown below.

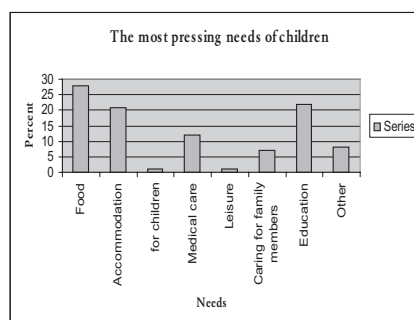
Table 35 Problems encountered in accessing the services.

Stigma encountered	Number	Percent
Stigma	6	11
Unfriendly service providers	9	16
Long distance	12	21
High costs	2	4
Lack of facilitation	10	18
Lack of family contacts	5	9
Others	12	21

Note: the table represents multiple responses

The most pressing needs mentioned by former child trafficking victims were food 28 percent, followed by education 22 percent and accommodations 21 percent. Other needs mentioned included Medicare 12 percent; take care of their children and leisure at one percent respectively as shown in the figure below.

Figure 5: The most pressing needs of children.



Probation officer in Makindye- Kampala cited a case and noted that, “There are many organizations dealing with children’s needs but they do not address trafficking. Even there are many government efforts like the department for children and youth in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development but there are hardly any policies to combat trafficking. The police efforts are also undermined because of poor facilitation to resettle the abandoned children who remain in their custody for some time

Another case was reported in Busia during the field study of a girl who came from Congo to Uganda to work in a bar with a man who later sexually abused her. The Probation Office intervened and the girl was taken back to her grand parent in Congo. She was reluctant to do so:

In Pader District, it was noted that most social services infrastructure had broken down due to the war and people were living in IDP camps. This has its challenges. The education system had been destroyed because schools and teachers had been specific targets of the violence. Children who were rescued had once been in the centres, many had to return to the camps where they are at risk of being abducted or trafficked and moved to non war zone areas again. Children who had been abducted and involved in combat felt more like soldiers and many wished to be in the rebel ranks partly due to indoctrination and stigma.

### **5.3 Interventions for dealing with Children affected by trafficking**

#### **a) National organisation of Trade Union**

National Organisation of Trade Union (NOTU), established in 1973 as the only principal organisation of workers in Uganda to which all registered trade unions must affiliate, its current membership stand at 17 unions. NOTU has been involved in child labour related activities geared towards informing members about the hazards of WFCL. Some of these were,

- ▶ NOTU has worked closely with other key stakeholders to push for the repeal of the Labour Act, which reorganize that children must not be employed.
- ▶ It has also been actively involved in pushing for the passing of the Child Labour Policy finally done in October 2006.
- ▶ With support of ILO-IPEC/ACTRAV and other funding sources from Norway, NOTU has been running several awareness raising activities on child labour especially among its members; has developed educational materials including those related to child labour policy and guidelines for trade unions in Uganda and an awareness video on child labour.
- ▶ Opportunities do exist in NOTU through its affiliates, to help reduce demand and trafficking of children. This can be done through advocating for a child trafficking law, working with its affiliates abroad to put pressure on out grower's farmers as well as fish and agricultural industries to reduce attracting children in their economic activities.
- ▶ Promotion of awareness on issues of child soldiers and prevention of trafficking of children in the destinations of fishing, agricultural plantations, and construction industry, which appear to attracting children in big numbers.

#### **b) Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE)**

FUE has been very active in raising awareness among employers about the dangers of involving children in WFCL; it has undertaken activities to work in plantations such as the Doha rice scheme which among other activities withdrew children from WFCL. A window of hope exist using FUE to promote awareness on dangers of child trafficking especially among large employers in Fishing, agriculture, building industry and to work closely with them to develop policies geared to wards penalising those supporting recruitment of and engaging Children in WFCL.

#### **c) ILO IPEC support to Uganda government and NGO Action plans.**

For over 10 years ILO/ IPEC with support from US DOL and other donors has been supporting programmes geared towards prevention and withdrawal children from worst forms of child labour.

It has worked through government ministries to develop and improve policy, train labour offices and promote information flow. It has also supported the National Council for Children to promote information flow and advocacy, prevent and withdraw children. It has worked with employers- FEU and workers union NOTU to raise awareness, in policy and advocacy, training, prevention and withdrawal of children from child labour and many of these children are products of child trafficking. It has also supported civil society organisations and NGOs to undertake projects and programmes to raise awareness about child labour to prevent and withdrawal children many of whom are products of child labour. Higher institutions of learning were also highly involved in mainstreaming and appreciating the problems of child labour .In all this a media and advocacy component has been developed and best practices are in place to show how children who end up in WFCL at various destinations can be withdrawn and supported.

Analysis of their programmes indicated that these were mainly generic programmes aimed at destination points and had been supported among several NGOS to address issues of Child domestic labour; street children; commercial sexual exploitation; children in fishing industry; agricultural plantations and mining.

Most of these programmes had prevention and withdrawal component with a focus on resettlements, because of limited information on trafficking outside the war zones, they did not adequately address the entire problem of child trafficking; which plays a very big role.

#### **e) Uganda government programmes.**

There exist government programmes like that Universal Primary Education (UPE) in Ministry of Education the which require every child to be in school, the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC); the prosperity for all programme- Bona bagagawale (wealth for all) aiming to reduce poverty in homes and HIV/AIDS programmes all these are geared at assisting the child. Many of these rural programmes have succeeded in absorbing many orphaned children and those in poverty-stricken homes who would otherwise be trafficked.

#### **Observations and conclusion**

It appears that the responses in place target trafficked children at destination points. There was little evidence of interventions addressing the whole spectrum of this problem in all its various stages including source and supply. Children in supply areas where children are recruited had no idea on who is intervening in this problem. Interestingly, there are children victims who found their way back as a sign of resilience.

The problems encountered by children in accessing help towards their most pressing needs reveal NGOs and other

civil society organisations most of them have not undertaken a deeper analysis of the experience, circumstances and emotional needs of the children. Many NGOs were just providing services for the sake of helpings. There were many unmet needs (psycho- social and economic) some of which should be provided immediately and others in the long run through a multi sectoral approach.

The study team noted that generally the children and adults lacked information where to go for help. The local leaders were neither informed nor bothered about the movements or factors, fuelling trafficking about children. In spite of being aware of the individual women and men who recruit children no action was taken.

Children especially in non-war zone had no idea about how they could resist the practice of child trafficking.

## CHAPTER SIX

# Legal issues and responses related to child trafficking in Uganda

### Introduction

This chapter helps in understanding legal issues, how they are used to prosecute and deter conscription of child soldiers and trafficking of children was deemed importance to the rapid assessment.

### 6.1 The Law

During the study it was revealed that Uganda has no specific legislation to address the crime of trafficking, despite the fact that trafficking in persons is not a new occurrence. According to Ms Damalie Lwanga, the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions noted that *the term trafficking though not new, does not feature anywhere in the statutes; many cases however are prosecuted under the Penal code Act.* These are,

**a) Offences against morality:** - rape, abduction, indecent assaults, defilement, procuring of girls, unlawful detention for purpose of sexual intercourse, living on earnings of prostitution and operating a brothel and keeping a house or room for purposes of prostitution.

**b) Offences against liberty**

These include kidnapping or abducting with intent to murder, confining, dealing in slaves inducing, importing, exporting, removing or buying, selling, accepting, receiving or detaining a person as a slave; child stealing- forcibly or fraudulently taking, enticing away detaining, knowing and receiving or harbouring such a child below 14 years.

**c) Offences against a person:** include murder, manslaughters, causing death disabling, stupefying, grievous harm, and common assaults.

**d) The Immigration laws**

The study revealed that the Immigration Act is also used to address trafficking issues. The Uganda citizenship and Immigration Control Act, which would have been a good tool using some section of the law to address trafficking in human persons, rather some of the provisions criminalize and punish victims and hardly provide them with adequate protection<sup>73</sup>. Immigration officers talked to at the Entebbe international airport and headquarters showed that their work is just mere follow up of the law, unless one has a committed an offence related to Immigration such as, illegal entry, forged document the officers will not interfere and people will pass in interrupted.

<sup>73</sup>See Section 37 of the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act duly prescribes altering, forging and other actions taken to produce unlawful national identity cards, See also section 37 (4) on the Penalty many victims of trafficking possessing false documents are penalized as well. See section 52, 58, 59, 62, 64,, 66

### 6.2 Challenges presented by current law

The assistant Deputy Public and Prosecution (DPP) observed that the Penal Code Act is inadequate on trafficking in persons as the various sections do not apply to all types of trafficking; methods of recruitment (force, coercion, deception abuse of power of person's vulnerability); intentions (debt bondage, serfdom, illicit adoption, slavery, child soldiering, sexual exploitation and other forms of control not described and elements of trafficking.

The law is obsolete and limiting in definition of concepts, prescription as well as extradition laws; partly due to the territorial application of the code and nationality principle (only citizen of Uganda). Thus, in terms of enforcement it is limited to punishing traffickers committing offences of trafficking committed within its borders. Those committed in another territory of another state outside Uganda are left Scot-free which makes extradition of trafficker for prosecution complicated. Therefore, this means the perpetrators are not prosecuted or punished.

The irony is that the victims suffer from stigma, fear, guilt and are not protected but punished under the current law and many times they become victims due to the inadequacy of the law. Many of victims and witnesses do not cooperate, others are accomplices especially parents and guardians who may have consented to the Act. All this is contrary to Perlemo protocol article 3(b) which states that the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the indeed exploitation shall be irrelevant.

In many instances this has deterred would be victims to provide useful information about the clandestine practice; many times victims of trafficking are criminalized, deported and sometimes re-trafficked. An incident cited in Uganda were the girls from India and Rwanda who were arrested and charged on prostitution were deported, even though when it was cleared that they were performing against their will. The victims are denied assistance, seeking help from authorities and protection they deserve. Traffickers use this leverage to exercise control and further exploitation.

The authorities in charge of enforcement are not fully acquainted to prevent abduction and conscription and trafficking in children and many times investigation involving trafficking are abandoned, while other are preferred for lesser crimes such as illegal entry, vagrancy, falsification of documents, due to a very high burden of proof to prosecutors. The myriads of fate which befall victims of trafficking very often are neglected. It was also noted that trafficking is not a crime under the present law, concepts currently used are not embracing, and traffickers

are provided easier passages. There was no evidence of prosecutions using the Penal Code Act for trafficking related offences since 2006. Uganda also lacks elaborate extradition treaties with source, transits and destination countries affected by trafficking related crimes. Due to the military nature of the forced conscription of child soldiers, the non military options of ensuring abductions are indeed very limited.

The effect of the absence of an enabling law to combat child trafficking has led Uganda not to train the various stakeholders both public and private about the underground nature of the practice and the support needed for victims to protect their rights and reparation.

*For two after, trafficked children are arrested and detained as illegal aliens, rather than recognized as the victims. The prosecution of criminals needs to be complemented with legislation and focuses on protecting child victims. Law enforcement needs to ensure the children in custody have access to their families and other support suspects.*

It is therefore imperative, that comprehensive legislation which addresses the crime in its totality be enacted, as the current Penal code does not adequately lead to successful arrest and prosecution of the culprits engaged in recruiting child soldiers and child trafficking.

### 6.3 Responses in addressing legal issues.

The study has noted that there have been very limited efforts to address the legal issues identified above. A few actors have been identified which include:

**a) American Bar Association (ABA) - Africa Law initiative** project using a legal approach has been working with the judiciary, local Lawyers associations and civil society NGOs to raise the issue of human trafficking and give it the prominence it deserves in Uganda. They have successfully organized an East African regional Conference on Human trafficking, workshops for judges, magistrates, prosecutors and law enforcement agents in east Africa in 2005. They also supported The Uganda Law Society to promote some awareness on Human trafficking issues. Furthermore, they provided grants to the African Judicial Network (AJN), the Uganda Police, the Lira Women's Rural Development and Child Protection Initiative to provide capacity building, training of trainers (TOT) sensitization workshops and victim assistance in different parts of the country. ABA-Africa has also funded the development of training manuals for Judges, Magistrates, Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Agents.

ABA-Africa is in the final stages of compiling the findings of a baseline survey on Trafficking in Human beings in east Africa, with a focus on case studies and the measuring of capacity gaps of the various stakeholders in responding effectively to THB. Finally, a regional media campaign using prominent artistes from the region to produce a song, music video and documentary drama on the vices of THB is underway. It is targeted at the youth who are the most vulnerable group susceptible to THB.

b) Interestingly, ABA – Africa has also funded and supported **Law and advocacy for women in Uganda (LAW – Uganda)**, a civil society NGO composed of a group of lawyers interested in women issues and rights; to do a draft a bill on THB to address the crime comprehensively, and to punish perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.

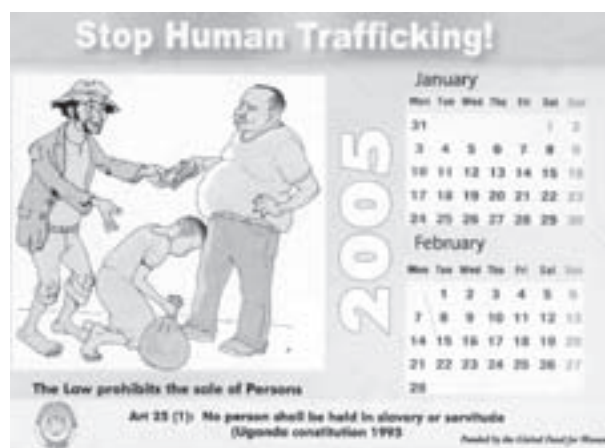
To date the following has been realized

- A **bill** on human trafficking including children has been drafted. It is very encompassing and deals with most of the gaps in the present Penal Code Act as far as child and human trafficking is concerned.
- A **committee** of members of parliament has been established an adhoc basis.
- The committee has been oriented and made inputs to the bill as well and further consultations are taking place.

LAW-Uganda has also, with the support of other funders been able to undertake:

- A **baseline survey** on trafficking of women and children in Uganda, in 2004 was completed to advocate for adapting legislation to combat human trafficking which has been used as a basis to develop the bill.
- Educational Materials on Trafficking to increase awareness on the human trafficking bill have been produced and disseminated including calendars and posters.

However, Law- Uganda in their efforts to move the Human Trafficking bill faster has been faced with some challenges, limited funding base and the low levels of involvement and networking with other stakeholders, save a few involved in legal fraternity.



#### c) Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

With the support of ABA-Africa, the DPP commenced efforts to develop a manual for training and creating awareness for judges, magistrates and public prosecutors to train them on human trafficking. These efforts may need to supported financial and with other resources. In addition DPPs' office should be encouraged to encompass other law enforcement agencies such as the police and other lower administrative units to detect, investigate, and prosecute child traffickers.

d) Regional Police is also involved in regional activities to address trafficking in Human beings and quite often hold hold regional Police chief meetings to discuss and map out plans to combat the vice.

- e) Documentation of cases and bringing to light incidents of trafficking in children through their project reports and information sources. Agencies playing an active role have been the ILO-IPEC and its partners, American Embassy, UNICEF, and Amnesty International and Save the children Fund.

## **6.4 Local leaders' efforts to combat child trafficking**

The study found very little local leader efforts in place to address child trafficking. Those efforts by local leaders which were cited such as in Nyendo suburb of Masaka town and Lambu landing site in Masaka Districts requiring all employers of children to register in place were sporadic, inconsistent and looking only at abuse of children by employers and focusing on the children movements and harbouring as the case study below illustrates.

### **Case study: Hirunda Nkutu**

*He had handled a case of child abduction. He says 4 years ago, a young girl was brought by her relatives from Kayunga districts in Bugerere. The relatives promised her parents that they would look after the girl. After 4 years in Nakulabye, a city suburb the girl was approached by a woman who stays within the neighbourhood and told that she could earn herself 15,000/= per month if she would agree to work as someone's housemaid. The girl agreed and was taken away. On realizing that the girl was missing, her relatives filed a case with the police. When the people who had abducted the girl realized that the police was looking for them, they told the girl to take them to her parents. On reaching there, they gave the girl's father some money and told them that his daughter was working for them. With his permission they went to the are Local leader. and procured a letter of consent from the father of the girl. Later on when the abductees were arrested, they produce the letter from the L.C. in Kayunga.*

## **6.5 The Uganda police officers efforts**

During the interview the police officer at Nankulabye, a Kampala suburb noted that they have tried to address the problem of child trafficking mainly by arresting and counselling the girls especially those in commercial sex exploitation and on the streets. These young girls perform in bars as strippers locally known as Kimansulo. At the end of the performance, the girls indulge in prostitution. The men are more interested in these young girls than the older women, because these girls dress in a way which entices the men, have less responsibilities, ask for less money, and they also provide cheap labour as bar maids therefore benefiting their employers greatly. He noted that girls are not willing to give up the practice because they have personal problems and no source of income.

## **6.6 Suggestions to address the legal gaps in child trafficking**

During the key informants interview it become very clear that there was need to review the penal code and bring it update with various International legal instruments and protocols on trafficking. These must confirm to the current development in addressing the vice of human trafficking, particularly focusing on prevention, prosecution and protection of victims.

Efforts being undertaken by the NGO, LAW- Uganda to reform and consolidates the law on human trafficking should be supported further by ILO to involve more stakeholders and actors to help pass it into law.

Once this is done a monitoring mechanism should be established; raise awareness among the law enforcement agencies such as the Directorate of Public prosecutions, the Judiciary, Probation and labour department, Immigration, police and local authorities on the degrading inhuman trade affecting children.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# Strategy, Conclusions and Recommendations

### 7.1 Strategy to combat child trafficking

The strategy proposed below aims at giving a boost and scaling up efforts of ILO-IPEC, government and civil society in combating the issue child soldier and child trafficking in general, as well as working with all major stakeholders to prevent these practices, while taking pragmatic steps to absorb vulnerable children in families and schools.

The strategy is based on five pillars: *law reform* and *awareness* of government stakeholders; *community involvement and capacity building* through training; *sustained multi media campaigns* and support towards the *development of victim support programmes* and enhancing poverty reduction programmes *safety nets* of affected householders.

This strategy derives a lot from the findings of this report on child trafficking in Uganda, the recently approved Labour Act and Child Labour Policy 2006, ILO Convention 182 on WFCL, the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Policy 2005 and the ILO-IPEC Social Protection paper on HIV/AIDS induced Child labour 2006 in Uganda.

#### 7.1.1 Development Objective

To contribute to the elimination of trafficking in children among families and communities in Uganda, through enhancement of efforts to combat child trafficking, including trafficking for use of children as child soldiers.

#### 7.1.2 Immediate objective

To enhance the ability of key stakeholders (children, Parents, household, communities development partners and government to prevent, mitigate and enforce actions geared towards combating trafficking in children in Uganda..

#### 7.1.3 Outputs

##### Output1. Law on human and child trafficking reformed and enforcement strengthened

Human and child trafficking laws and Legal Aid programmes cover children affected by trafficking and other forms of WFCL

##### Activities

- a) Liaise with DPP, LAW-U and other stakeholders to fund the enactment of the Human and child trafficking bill intending to consolidate law, investigate, prosecute child traffickers and protect children from this inhuman behaviour. b) Involve Legal aid lawyers, legal institutions and other key stakeholders in the review and advocacy for the human trafficking bill to pass into law

- c) Build capacity of the DPPs Directorate, Lawyers Association and members, LAW- U, Police, local leaders and other law enforcement agencies such as the, Judiciary, Probation officers, and Labour officers on the issues of child trafficking through legal counselling, education, representation, awareness and data base.
- d) Promote networking, of Police, Probation officers, Community child advocates, LCs, parents and other law enforcement agencies involved in enforcement and addressing child trafficking.
- e) Help local leaders develop Bi-laws prohibiting child trafficking activities and those that keep children in schools.
- f) Mobilize and involve adult child rights advocates and community watch groups to monitor abuse, exploitation of children, traffickers and those likely to be trafficked.
- g) Establish focal point desks at national and districts levels to coordinate child and human trafficking.
- h) Support and take advantage of review of the Children Act 2000 to incorporate Childs trafficking issues.

##### Output 2: Education sector ability to keep children in schools strengthened.

Children affected by trafficking and other forms of WFCL are covered by educational child protection schemes

##### Activities

- a) Organize periodic district level coordination meeting on education and social protection schemes conducted by the district education officer with the involvement of NGOs and FBOs in the district.
- b) Facilitate resource mobilization support children in schools and reduce their dropping out.
- c) Undertake campaigns to enhance educational availability to keep children in schools and train teachers on child trafficking and child labour issues.
- d) Work with education authorities to include child trafficking issues in the school syllabus and those of higher institutions of learning.
- e) Regulate and establish control measures against recruitment of student's from neighbouring countries.

##### Output 3: Victim Support and Psychosocial Programmes enhanced.

Children and households affected by child trafficking benefit from victim support and other psychosocial programmes with a gender strategy differentiating sex based activities for girls and boys.

- a) Develop user-friendly support manuals for programmes, monitoring and evaluation,

- b) Delivery of psychosocial support and victim support activities.
- c) Build capacity of the NGOs and civil society involved in psychosocial support at the district, sub-county and community level through training seminars on care for potential victim of child trafficking to promote comprehensive friendly victim support programmes.
- d) Organize periodic meetings with victims and psychosocial support actors to enhance child protection, programmes and strengthen referral.
- e) Undertake campaigns against stigma and discrimination of withdrawn children in accessing psychosocial support programmes.
- f) Strengthen self-help groups, peer networks and CBOs activities through training workshops and seminars on child trafficking and other social protection activities that assist children.
- g) Undertake training of trainers (TOT) in counselling, life skills, problem solving and emotional support for both parents and children.
- h) Support recreation activities, games, and music, dance, and drama events to build self-esteem of children withdrawn.
- i) Support NGO action plans by giving financial support to start programmes aimed at preventing and withdrawing children in both rural and urban areas.
- j) Support CLU to hold annual meetings to share efforts and review progress made in combating child trafficking and child soldiers.

**Output 4: Policy and institutionalisation properly mainstreamed in various programmes for children affected by WFCL.**

Children affected by trafficking are covered by policy and labour programmes.

**Activities**

- a) ILO\IPEC liaise with other development partners such as UNICEF, OCHA, UNHCR, UNFRI, UNODC, IOM, UNFPA, OVC secretariat to enhance policies and institutions that support prevention of crime and protection for children affected by trafficking in the various destinations, including children in combat.
- b) Liaise with Child Labour Unit and National Council of Children and the OVC secretariat, Child labour stakeholders forum and Ministry of Education (MOES) in coordination of efforts to understand and combat child trafficking.
- c) IPEC/ILO works with CLU to develop and disseminate abridged versions of relevant policies with a bearing on child trafficking to national and districts stakeholders.
- d) Train and support NGOs action programmes to undertake vocational skills and other livelihood programmes to promote skills for positive income generation among rehabilitate and withdrawn children.
- e) NGOs Action programmes should also provide assistance to affect guardians and parents. These

parents need special training and special assistance in a form of income generating activities in order to ensure that they will not send again children to traffickers.

**Output 5: Poverty programmes target vulnerable households,**

Children affected by trafficking are integrated in poverty eradication programmes.

**Activities:**

- a) Facilitate the mobilisation of resources from donors and government programmes like prosperity for all programmes (Bona Bagagawale) to introduce income-generating activities for withdrawn and affected families.
- b) Undertake vocational and other livelihood programmes to promote skills for positive income generation among rehabilitated and withdrawn children.

**Output 6: Sustained multi media campaigns supported against Child trafficking.**

Children, Parents and Communities affected by trafficking and other WFCL are reached by awareness and information.

**Activities:**

- a) Children, Parents and communities affected by trafficking and WFCL are constantly reminded of the hazards of Child trafficking.
- b) Organise regular media fraternity briefing on Child trafficking.
- c) Support regular electronic and print media on discussion about child trafficking issues.
- d) Regular documentation of best practices and incidences.
- e) Production of IEC materials.

**Output 7: Trafficking for Child Soldier and other Worst forms of child labour is addressed.**

Children abducted in war zone to fight and other WFCL are covered by suggested activities.

**Activities**

- a) ILO and other development partners undertake regional effort to engage governments of DRC, Uganda and Sudan on cross border trafficking, children engaged in combat and those children involved in sex enslavement and marriage servitude in order to form a permanent committee to regularly monitor trafficking of children. in order to form a permanent committee to regularly monitor trafficking of children.
- b) Undertake a stakeholder's analysis to assess the opportunities, response, challenges towards WFCL and other horrors meted on children in the war zone and select those NGOs to assist in scaling up interventions.
- c) Undertake training of stakeholders as partners in addressing WFCL, trafficking and needs of trafficked children.
- d) Assist in repatriation, victim support activities and resettlements of children withdrawn from combat and

trafficking.

- e) Develop user-friendly educational materials to increase awareness of approaches and other best practices.
- f) Undertake awareness building on child soldiers and trafficking issues in war zone among children, communities and local leaders; and encourage local solutions and campaigns against recruitment of child soldiers' combat activities.
- g) CLU\ILO work with relevant government departments to review conventions and laws prohibiting trafficking of children and strengthen all levels of enforcement to curb the vice of recruiting child soldiers.
- h) The role of ICC in prosecuting the LRA war lords about the gross violation of human rights, child trafficking and use in combat be enhanced and this appears to be effective in curtailing the recruitment, use and exploitation of children in combat.
- i) Peace promotion activities are supported at all levels with other UN development partners to enhance tolerance, dialogue and disarmament which escalate fighting

THE CHILD TRAFFICKING LOGFRAME

GOAL AND PURPOSE ELIMINATION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING IN UGANDA

Narrative summary	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Critical assumptions	Actors responsible
<p><i>Development Objectives</i></p> <p>To contribute to the elimination of trafficking in children among families and communities through enhancement of efforts to combat these practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence and sustainable activities aimed at reducing child trafficking.</li> <li>Improved livelihoods by a significant proportion of children in Uganda.</li> <li>Demonstrable commitment from all major stakeholders towards child rights observation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action reports (Programme &amp; project evaluation reports)</li> <li>Enacted and enforceable national laws, policies and in support of rights.</li> <li>Household surveys</li> <li>Activities addressing child trafficking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong political will</li> <li>Other actors/ stakeholders (sectors, and AP partners will play their roles and be supportive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGLSD National child labour steering committees</li> <li>Local governments</li> <li>AP- ILO partners</li> <li>NGOs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Immediate objective</b></p> <p>To enhance the ability of key stakeholders (children, household and communities) development partners and government to prevent, mitigate and enforce actions geared towards combating trafficking in children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children prevented through legal aid.</li> <li>Percentage of children withdrawn from destination of child trafficking placed in gainful employment skills.</li> <li>Percentage of central and local government sector budgets allocated to promote social protection programmes to protect children in WFCL.</li> <li>Percentage of the children induced child labour accessing essential services.</li> <li>Percentage of communities aware of child rights, victim support programmes and other social protection measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops on legislations and child labour policy.</li> <li>Programme and project reports</li> <li>M&amp;E reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political will and support will be sustained</li> <li>Adequate funds will be made available in time</li> <li>Other actors / stakeholders will cooperate, play their roles and be supportive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National steering committee.</li> <li>Development partners</li> <li>AP partners</li> <li>Other key sector institutions.</li> <li>ILO/IPEC</li> </ul>

The following issues cut across all the indicators and will be taken into consideration and sex, age and geographical areas will disaggregate all indicators.

Output	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Critical assumptions	Actors responsible	Target date
<p><b>Output 1. Education sector ability to keep children in schools strengthened.</b></p> <p>Children affected by trafficking and other forms of WFCL are covered by educational child protection schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of key actors and social partners in education sector at national and district levels are sensitized and trained.</li> <li>No. of support initiatives established in education sector at various levels for poor and vulnerable children.</li> <li>No. of self help groups supporting children in education sector to acquire skills.</li> <li>No. Campaigns undertaken by children against Child trafficking, child labour, stigma WFCL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress reports</li> <li>APs Annual reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political stability will prevail;</li> <li>Adequate and timely release of funds;</li> <li>Support from all stakeholders forthcoming;</li> <li>Target communities and groups will respond positively and cooperate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGLSD</li> <li>AP partners</li> </ul>	Dec 09
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>a) Mobilize and involve adult child rights' advocates and community watch groups to monitor abuse, exploitation of children, traffickers and those likely to be trafficked.</p> <p>b) A periodic district level coordination meeting on educational child protection schemes conducted by the district education officer with the involvement of CBOs, NGOs and FBOs in the district.</p> <p>c) Facilitate resources mobilization to reduce burden of poor children dropping out in education sector.</p> <p>d) Undertake campaigns to enhance educational availability to keep children in schools.</p>				<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training workshops</li> <li>Community campaigns</li> <li>Official staff</li> <li>Trained in childcare support.</li> </ul>	
Output	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Critical assumptions	Actors responsible	Target date
<p><b>Output 2 Law on human and child trafficking reformed and enforcement strengthened.</b></p> <p>Human and child trafficking laws and Legal Aid programmes cover children affected by trafficking and WFCL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of government key actors, lawyers, legal aid agencies and firms sensitised about child trafficking and child protection programmes</li> <li>Number of legal aid support services assisting children and their guardians.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops reports</li> <li>Counselling session reports</li> <li>Annual reports</li> <li>Legal aid support reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support from local governments and teachers.</li> <li>Target communities will positively cooperate towards this cause</li> <li>Adequate and timely release of funds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal firms</li> <li>Lawyers.</li> <li>NGOs and development partners</li> </ul>	Dec 09

<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>a) Liaise with DPP, LAW-U and other stakeholders to fund the enactment of the Human and child trafficking bill intending to consolidate law, investigate, prosecute child traffickers and protect children from this inhuman behaviour.</p> <p>b) Involve Legal aid lawyers, legal institutions and other key stakeholders in the review and advocacy for the human trafficking bill.</p> <p>c) Build capacity of the DPPs Directorate, Lawyers Association and members, LAW- U, Police, local leaders and other law enforcement agencies such as the, Judiciary, Probation officers, and Labour officers on the issues of child trafficking (legal counselling, education, representation, awareness creation, data base).</p> <p>d) Promote networking and involvement of Police, Probation officers, community child advocates, Local leaders(LCs), parents and other law enforcement agencies to enforce mechanisms, laws and other Bi-laws addressing child trafficking.</p> <p>e) Help local leaders develop Bi-laws that keep children in schools and prohibiting child trafficking activities.</p> <p>f) Mobilize and involve adult child rights advocates and community watch groups to monitor abuse, exploitation of children, traffickers and those likely to be trafficked.</p> <p>g) Establish focal point desks to coordinate child and human trafficking.</p> <p>h) Work with Law reform and to incorporate child trafficking and WFCL issues.</p>				<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training workshops</li> <li>• Community campaigns</li> <li>• Officials staff</li> <li>• Trained in Child trafficking and services.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 3.</b></p> <p><b>Victim support and Psycho-social support programmes enhanced</b></p> <p>Children and households affected by trafficking and other forms of WFCL are covered by victim and psycho social support programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of NGOs and civil society involved in psychosocial support at national, district, Sub County levels and community local leaders, self-help groups, and faith- based groups' sensitised about Victim support and psychosocial care.</li> <li>• Victim Support initiatives offered for child trafficking victims. No. of community support programmes for vulnerable children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress reports</li> <li>• Annual reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate and timely release of fund;</li> <li>• Support from all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Target communities and groups will respond positively and cooperate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOH</li> <li>• Local government leaders</li> <li>• Health personnel</li> </ul>	Dec 06
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>1. Build capacity of the NGOs and civil society organisations involved in psychosocial support at the district, sub-county and community level; through training seminars on care for potential victim and comprehensive friendly victim support programmes of trafficked children.</p> <p>2. Organize periodic meetings with victims and psychosocial support actors to enhance child protection programmes and strengthen referral.</p> <p>3. Undertake campaigns against stigma and discrimination of withdrawn children in accessing psychosocial support programmes.</p> <p>4. Strengthen self-help groups, peer networks and CBOs activities through training workshops and seminars on child trafficking and other social protection activities that assist children.</p> <p>5. Undertake training of trainers (TOT) in counselling, life skills, problem solving and emotional support for both parents and children.</p> <p>6. Support recreation activities, games, and music, dance, and drama events to build self-esteem of withdrawn children.</p> <p>7. Support stakeholders through financial support to start programmes to establish projects to prevent and withdrawn children in both rural and urban areas.</p> <p>8. Develop user support manuals (programmes, monitoring and evaluation) on delivery of Psycho-social support and victim support activities.</p> <p>9. Undertake media briefs to involve media in promotion and dissemination of best practices, model community schemes and case studies in combating child trafficking.</p>				<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Counselling</li> <li>• Pamphlets</li> <li>• Legal representation</li> <li>• Facilitation for community Sensitisations</li> </ul>	

Output	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Critical assumptions	Actors responsible	Target date
<p><b>Output 4.</b></p> <p><b>Policy and Institutionalisation of systems addressing child trafficking</b></p> <p>Children affected by trafficking are covered by policy and labour programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of coordination meeting with key actors and social partners in education sector at national and district levels are sensitised.</li> <li>No. of psychosocial support initiatives mainstreamed in policies.</li> <li>No. of liaison meetings held on social protection schemes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress reports</li> <li>APs Annual reports.</li> <li>Sector support reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political stability will prevail</li> <li>Adequate and timely funds.</li> <li>Support from all stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGLSD</li> <li>AP partners</li> </ul>	Dec 09
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>a) ILO/IPEC liaise with other development partners such as UNICEF, OCHA, UNHCR, UN FRI, UNODC, IOM, UNFPA, to enhance policies and institutions that support prevention of crime and protection of children affected by trafficking in the various destinations, including children in combat.</p> <p>b) Liaise with Child Labour Unit, National Council of Children, the OVC secretariat, Child Labour Stakeholders Forum and Ministry of Education (MOES) to draw up a coordination network to combat child trafficking.</p> <p>c) IPEC/ILO works with CLU to develop and disseminate abridged versions of policies relevant to child soldiers and child trafficking to national and districts stakeholders.</p> <p>d) ILO IPEC works with CLU to review and develop the National plan of Action on WFCL and bring it to date with the Child Labour policy passed in 2006.</p> <p>e) Support CLU to hold annual meetings to share efforts and review progress made in combating child trafficking.</p>				<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds for meetings and allowances</li> <li>Materials and policies developed</li> </ul>	Dec 09
<p><b>Output 5</b></p> <p><b>Poverty programmes target vulnerable households,</b></p> <p>Children affected by trafficking are integrated and covered by poverty eradication programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of households assisted.</li> <li>Number of schemes for poverty reduction established.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring reports</li> <li>Annual reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target institutions will positively cooperate towards this cause</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self help groups.</li> <li>NGOs and development partners.</li> </ul>	Dec 09
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>a) Facilitate the mobilisation of resources from donors to support government programmes like (Bona Baga gawale) micro finance and introduce income-generating activities for withdrawn children and affected families.</p> <p>b) Undertake vocational and other livelihood programmes to impart skills for positive income generation among withdrawn and rehabilitated children.</p> <p>c) Train and support NGOs action programmes to undertake vocational skills and other livelihood programmes to promote skills for positive income generation among rehabilitated and withdrawn children.</p> <p>d) NGOs Action programmes provide assistance to affected families in a form of income generating programmes.</p>				<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <p>Funds, Stakeholders Workshops</p>	

<p><b>Output 6.</b> <b>Sustained Multi media Campaigns against Child trafficking.</b></p> <p>Children and communities affected by child trafficking are covered by media programmes to reduce the practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of media houses participating in the multi media campaigns.</li> <li>• No. of initiatives on going to increase awareness about child trafficking</li> <li>• No. of best practices documented and disseminated on Child trafficking and WFCL.</li> <li>• No. of training and awareness work-shops, campaigns undertaken by Media against Child trafficking, child labour.</li> <li>• Number of media briefs undertaken with stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress reports</li> <li>• APs Annual reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political stability will prevail</li> <li>• Adequate and timely funds</li> <li>• Support from all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Target communities and groups will respond positively and cooperate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds.</li> <li>• Workshops</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p>a) Children, Parents and communities affected by trafficking and WFCL are constantly reminded of the hazards of Child trafficking.</p> <p>b) Organise regular media fraternity briefing on child trafficking.</p> <p>c) Support regular electronic and print releases on Child trafficking.</p> <p>d) Regular documentation of best practices and incidences of child trafficking.</p>					
<p><b>Out put 7:</b></p> <p>Trafficking for Child Soldier and other Worst forms of child labour.</p>					
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>a) ILO and other development partners undertake regional efforts to engage governments of Uganda, Kenya, DRC and Sudan about cross border trafficking, children engaged in combat sex enslavement and marriage servitude in order to form a permanent committee to regularly monitor trafficking of children.</p> <p>b) Undertake a stakeholder's analysis to assess the opportunities, response and challenges towards WFCL and other horrors meted on children in war zone and select those to assist in scaling up interventions.</p> <p>c) Undertake training of stakeholders as partners in addressing WFCL, trafficking and needs of trafficked children.</p> <p>d) Assist in repatriation, victim support activities and resettlements of children withdrawn from trafficking.</p> <p>e) Develop user-friendly educational materials to increase awareness of approaches and other best practices.</p> <p>f) Undertake awareness building on trafficking issues in war zone and WFCL among children, communities and local leaders; and encourage local solutions and campaigns against trafficking children.</p> <p>g) CLU/ILO work with government relevant departments to review conventions and laws prohibiting trafficking of children and strengthen all levels of enforcement to curb the vice of child soldiers.</p> <p>h) The role of ICC in prosecuting the LRA war Lords about the gross violation of human rights, child trafficking recruitment and use of children in combat be enhanced as an effective means of preventing recruitment and use of children in combat.</p> <p>i) Peace promotion activities are supported at all levels with other UN development partners to enhance tolerance, dialogue and handing in of weapon which escalate fighting</p>					

### 7.1.4 Institutional mechanism to address child trafficking

In developing institutional mechanisms while addressing institutional problems related to combating trafficking in children in Uganda, key sectors like Ministry of Education, Internal Affairs, Judiciary, Labour and Gender, Immigration departments and other Social partners should be brought at the fore front. It is important to note that the problems associated with child trafficking are not a preserve one Ministry/area of government or NGO/CBO they are multi sectoral and therefore needs a multi faceted approach.

There is also a need to scale up and balance up interventions by identifying and dealing with constraints in legal protection, awareness and creation and victim support providers and involvement of other stakeholders from the source to the destination of child trafficking mechanisms.

It is equally important to network at districts and sub counties levels and build on what already exists such as the MoGLSD national steering committee on Child Labour workers and employers unions and NGOs to reduce numbers of children being trafficked. Others efforts at lower levels such as the local council secretary for children, child advocates and parent advocate support groups and Para-legal in communities also need to monitor and report to law enforcement agencies child traffickers and exploitation of children to law enforcement agencies.

The MoGLSD through the National Child Labour Steering Committee working closely with Child labour unit and with support by IPEC; should play a leading role in coordinating the actors at district and national levels including the efforts of ILO-IPEC and also generate political commitment against child trafficking.

There is need to promote local solutions especially enhancing informal social protection schemes and safety nets.

It is imperative to create awareness about the issue of child soldiers and child trafficking with all its associated evils. This should include all forms of exploitation of children who work in fishing, abduction of children for engagement in war

#### Key actors at various levels

In order for efforts to combat child trafficking, including child soldiers to be successful and effectively integrated the following key actors must play their roles.

#### 1. Central government and district local governments

Ministry of Gender Labour and social development should take a lead role in coordination, networking and building of linkages at national level. It is suggested that ILO/IPEC should offer financial support and work closely with government to meet the above objectives of coordination of actors.

The Child Labour Unit and the proposed National Authority on Human Trafficking in future should provide leadership, regulation, coordination, mainstreaming of child trafficking issues in other sectors. The other sectors to be brought on board in the fight against child trafficking

are ministry of Education, Justice, Local governments, agriculture and departments like the AIDS commission, Police and Immigration as well as other development partners.

The MoGLSD needs to liaise with the national data collection agencies like UBOS (as previously done with thematic and sectoral studies and Uganda and Demographic and health survey in 2004) to undertake research on child trafficking in order to create a database on this problem.

#### 2. District level

The roles at the national level should be reproduced and cascade to the district level. The District Labour officer as a lead person working closely with Probation and Welfare Officer should engage and undertake capacity building activities of the partners at the district, especially the district council Social services, Adult literacy and HIV/AIDS committees planning committees, sub-county and community level through holding coordination meetings, training seminars on WFCL, Trafficking and Social protection in order to ensure integration in district budgets and logistical matters including data gathering and dissemination.

As central government coordinates at the national level through MoGLSD, as well as at the district level the following should be considered,

- Targeting which involves disaggregating data of the vulnerable children affected by trafficking and child labour is important in for costing, selecting a delivery channel and methods to be used for families when accessing the nature and type of support. The mode of selection where communities and families are involved and who is to supervise especially NGOs and FBOs,
- Capacity building of institutions in terms of human resources and their infrastructures, this can be done through training on the issue of child soldiers and trafficking of children for WFCL. Such training should include but not limited to social protection, using OVC strategy, Labour Act and Policy, SIMPOC Reports on thematic and Sectoral studies reports as well exposure through literature and sites study visits.
- Government support for institutions such as the National Steering Committee on Child labour and the National Task committee on Social protection under MoGLSD to drive the development and implementation of appropriate social protection efforts and deal with further vulnerability. Government should also provide leadership and coordination and other mechanisms, which strengthen efforts to combat child trafficking in other sectors especially the OVC secretariat with a lot of Funding from USAID.

#### 3. Non-government and community based organization.

ILO-IPEC has for over the last 8 years supported Action programmes geared towards combating WFCL in

Uganda. There is a need to continue this support, especially building capacity of partners in both supply and receiving areas. Such NGOs, Faith based organisations, informal groups and community-based organisation will have to ensure the following:

**i. Beneficiary participation:** Involvement of children and parents and other key stakeholders (. faith based, private sector, self groups)in generating ideas, coordinating efforts, promote efforts to combat child trafficking and WFCL

**ii.Right holders and using the child rights approach:** Prevention, prosecution, rehabilitation, withdrawal and other victim support measures need to be delivered on the basis of child rights approach using the Convention on Rights of Children, C182 and C 132 and other International instruments highlighted in this report, which have a bearing on child trafficking.

**iii.Documentation and dissemination of best practices:** All efforts which have proven to be effective well in addressing child trafficking problem and other forms of WFCL as well as social protection interventions will need to be documented and disseminated to all stakeholders in order to help other partners learn and adapt them.

**iv.Vulnerabilities:**

Dealing with factors that lead children into vulnerabilities especially child labour, HIV, poverty and cultural practices that encourage child marriages will need to be addressed.

**4. Development partners and donors**

Development partners especially ILO-IPEC Uganda secretariat should liaise and mobilise resources and work with and other development partners such as UNODC, IOM, UNFPA and UNICEF to strengthen efforts to eliminate child trafficking and the WFCL especially those that hinge on children in combat, early marriages, commercial sexual exploitation and servitude.

- Provide adequate resources and funding to key stakeholders for the rehabilitation and reintegration of all children that are withdrawn from rebel activity and those that have been associated with armed forces and other WFCL.
- Assistance should be targeted towards the development of relevant and effective programmatic action which reinforces the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for children in their communities and ensuring Long-term sustainability and success of such interventions.
- Identify Child protection ambassadors both nationally and internationally on issues of trafficking and use of children in combat to help monitor the child trafficking situations, gather data and reports and help in dissemination of C-182 and other conventions as well as training.

**5. Communities, self-help groups and peer support networks**

Communities which include children; parents, informal leaders and clan heads should take a lead in awareness raising

programs and social mobilization against child trafficking. Regular awareness on children rights and protection issues need to be undertaken especially against, obnoxious cultural practices which promote early marriages and child sexual abuse.

Monitoring child trafficking using village volunteers or Para legal, parent support groups and reporting would be traffickers to law enforcement agencies will also be done.

There will also be a need for regular counselling and promotion of life skills for potential and affected children to increase sensitivity of the issues, mobilisation resource, enhance problem identification and solving so that emotional support of children is enhanced.

There is a need to undertake children based campaigns through use of music, drama, Peer –to –Peer counselling, sensitisations drama , songs and reporting about trafficking.

**6. Sustained Media approach:**

Previous IPEC supported media initiatives such as the IPEC- UNICEF on Child labour and the Rural Development Media Communication agency (RUDIMEC) a consortium of journalists on the WFCL appear to have significant impact in drawing the general attention of the public to child labour issues through print and electronic bulletins and also sustainable act as watch dogs. There is need to re-train the media on reporting issues of child trafficking, conventions and law enforcement and victim support programmes and raises awareness of the invisible problem child trafficking and the incredible stories of horrors they go through while fishing in lakes, homes, during combat, and CSEC.

**7. Employers and Workers organisations**

It has been cited previously that the private sector has been very active in raising awareness and advocating for the enactment of policies and Laws a, which have a bearing on the WFCL. As tripartite constituents of the ILO, along with their large memberships and a variety of sectors represented such as agricultural plantations, transport agencies, fishing and construction; where several children have been recruited to meet the demands, Employers and workers organisations can play a vital role in serving as key allies if supported and retrained to combat child trafficking.

**7.1.5 Sustainability issues in combating child trafficking**

Sustainability is built on the premise that efforts to combat child trafficking need be regularly ongoing. This calls for continuous support for all interventions towards elimination of recruitment and use of children for war and child trafficking. Thus this may involve:

- i. Supporting the creation of village volunteer committees/self-help groups to monitor child disappearance, traffickers, and methods of recruitment and destinations of children. Those who volunteer to become paralegals, should monitor service providers and promote change in behaviour against child labour

- and other WFCL. These will ensure that children remain within the village structure.
- ii. Child and beneficiary participation is important to raise awareness, promote individual skills of resistance and better livelihoods opportunities especially income replacement activities such as IGAs.
  - iii. Devising local community solutions towards the child trafficking problem, poverty and children dropping out of schools and, also local leaders take on responsibilities to deal with the gaps and risks identified.
  - iv. Sustained multi media campaigns for effective transfer of messages on Child trafficking.

### 7.1.6 Suggestions to combat the issue of Child soldiers

The conflict has taken almost 20 years creating disorientation and division in communities, and intolerance for former rebels especially children. There is a need to undertake activities which promote human rights, peace building and tolerance for each other in the war zone. There is also a need to deal with the misinformation about the war, its dangers on people and infra structure and insecurity in the Northern region. Consequently;

- ▶ The army, police and other auxiliary forces like the LDUs, and Amuka boys should be trained in Child protection, WFCL and Laws/convention related to trafficking and dangers of using children in combat.
- ▶ Children including FAC needs to be involved in campaigns that enlist their views to deal with child trafficking.
- ▶ FAC need to be empowered with positive livelihood skills and vocational skills including therapies like sports, music, and traditional methods of dealing with stigma and stress.
- ▶ Labour officers and Probation officers as lead persons should be facilitated to establish child protection committees (CPC) to help the formulation of bi-laws, monitor, disseminate information and follow up issues of trafficking and other WFCL. CPC should increase awareness on trafficking through radios, community workshops, literature and dialogue be promoted to increase alertness to trafficking and WFCL and report to local authorities?
- ▶ The Labour and Probation officers need to coordinate efforts addressing FAC and raise the issue of WFCL and prioritise these issues among local governments' key stakeholders and in addition to monitoring activities geared towards prevention and withdrawal of children from WFCL.
- ▶ A stakeholder analysis is important to identify gaps and opportunities and challenges of interventions for those addressing child trafficking in non war zones.
- ▶ Efforts by Uganda government to demobilise children recruited in the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and Local defence units and other auxiliary

forces should be supported.

- ▶ Strengthen the implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks on the recruitment and use of children in combat.
- ▶ Government should seriously consider enacting legislation which explicitly prohibits the recruitment of children less than fifteen years into armed forces/groups and their direct participation in hostilities and punish civilian abettors of child recruitment.

## 7.2 Conclusion

Child trafficking is one of the heinous human crimes, taking many forms and leading children into WFCL in Uganda and it introduces children to modern slavery. It targets mainly children who have lost their parents and relatives, those out of school, at the brink of poverty, abusive family environment. It has been found that there is little information and data about the problem of child trafficking in Uganda due to the hidden nature of the problem, save for those in war zones, where reporting has been vigorously noted.

Traffickers are mainly relatives, peers and other well-established individuals who have taken advantage of the vulnerability of children. Some children are abducting even in non-war zone areas and a few are tricked.

It has been reported that some children graduate into child recruiter's and agents together with community members. In some instances innocent children who move on their own fall into traps of traffickers when they move to other towns.

The trafficked children are subjected to intolerable inhuman and degrading slave like activities including killing, smuggling drugs, sexual exploitation in the name of making 'quick' profits from cheap labour, without due regard to age and the circumstances these children are exposed to. Children engaged in domestic work are the majority and quite often invisible. CDWs may be trafficked again, into prostitution by another child who may switch from being a victim to a trafficker, once absorbed in the practice.

Cross border trafficking appears to be on the increase basing on several key informants interviews. Cross border is facilitated by the porous border points. Borders are characterised with huge numbers of people and out flows of people, long distance drivers ferrying merchandise in and across. In addition, the uncontrolled Lake Victoria fishing movements among three countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania coupled with ignorance among the border community taking this to be a normal migration of people. Cross-border trafficking was mainly driven by factors such new employment opportunity, marriage proposals and search for a better life. The entire cycle of child trafficking is full of exploitation. Uganda has a mixture of source, transit and destination in terms of cross border.

Children who have been withdrawn usually suffer a myriad of psycho and social consequences including depression and trauma, while others are killed.

Parents and relatives have been found to be mainly unaware

of the consequences which be fell their children who are trafficked as evidenced. Those whose children disappeared had taken no effort to report to the authorities. Many relatives appear to praise the traffickers and assume they have helped to reduce the burden of extra child in the family. Similarly, a number of NGOs and law enforcement agencies were not conversant with core issues regarding trafficking and thus not playing a significant in abetting the vice.

In combating child trafficking five levels have been identified, legal, victim support, education, policy and institution sustained media campaigns and poverty eradication. In order to re- invigorate the fight against child trafficking this study urges stakeholders to work together because the problems and needs presented by children are diverse and need both government, and NGOs interventions. There is a need to organise periodic coordination meetings to deal with gaps and challenges highlights in efforts to fight child trafficking.

In order to promote prevention which is central in the fight against child trafficking, there is a need to increase awareness through media programmes building on RUDIMEC previous successful efforts to fight WFCL. This should move along with building capacity and mobilising adequate resources for all sectors and educate people about this modern slavery.

There is a need to initiate periodical collection of information to update the data base on child trafficking using UBOS and other stakeholders (IOM, Immigration, NGOs and police) which data is almost is non-existence and difficult to access.

Community involvement including parents, guardians, children, and parents support groups and children village's volunteers to monitoring child traffickers is urgently needed.

Creation of Self-help groups and informal systems supporting families and children in rural areas have been found to be useful channels, which meets needs of the vulnerable groups. These groups' activities are sustainable in terms of passing on information using local resources and build on the existing efforts of communities. They can also be helpful in prevention, coping and mitigation of causes of child trafficking such as the impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty, big family size and other issues. This is likely to lead to achieving one of the millenniums development goals.

Case studies in previous Action programmes among NGOs supported by ILO-IPEC and proved to be effective need to be scaled up to reach supply areas as well.

## **7.3 Recommendations**

### **7.3.1 Long term actions**

The following recommendations are proposed to address the issues identified in the long run.

**Government** specifically needs to address the following in order combat child trafficking:

- a) Reform the law which hinges on trafficking scattered in the Penal code by updating it and consolidating it into one code.
- b) Ministry of Justice (DPP) should review the law sector and legal frame work to ensure training, mainstreaming and provisions of infrastructures that addresses legal aid for vulnerable groups especially those in trafficking for WFCL.
- c) Undertake retraining of Law enforcement agencies while closely working with the Directorate of public prosecution.
- d) MoGLSD specifically be charged to take the lead in coordination, mobilising support and capacity building for victim and psychosocial support deliveries to address victims of child trafficking, promote social protection and OVCs interventions at all levels including the district and sub country levels. The child labour unit and the Department of Youth and Children should be the central coordinating level, while the district labour and probation and welfare officers take the lead in coordination at the districts level.
- e) Ministry of Education should be supported to address problems of children dropping out of schools; a situation that renders children vulnerable to trafficking. Ministry of Education is charged to lead the coordination of all efforts geared towards addressing Child trafficking in education sector at all levels including the district and sub country levels and working with other actors.
- f) Ministry of Finance planning and economic development should spearhead to mainstream social protection in the poverty eradication action programmes, development plans as well increasing budget allocations for programmes which reduce vulnerability of children to trafficking. Other opportunities exist among major sectors in Finance for budget allocation and Infusion in the PEAP Local governments and Agriculture.
- g) Ministry of Internal affairs through the departments of Police and Immigration departments as key points be encouraged to mainstream child trafficking in the law enforcement mechanism especially the vulnerable groups as well as in the immigration department to curb trafficking and exploitation of children.
- h) ILO-IPEC together with Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) supported by DPP and law reform commission should take advantage of review process of the Children Act cap 59, 2000 to identify issues of child trafficking, and WFCL as well as the C182 and other conventions to be able to address the slavery of children. The present Children Act (Cap 59, 2000) only mentions Child labour in one sentence.
- i) Reinvigorate the police efforts to address trafficking across the borders by establishing a human and child trafficking desk to gather information, support prosecution and NGO efforts in providing victim support services.
- j) Local councils (LCs) should be trained and facilitated

to be at the forefront of combating recruitment of child soldiers and trafficking in community.

- k) Livelihood and vocational skills plays a mitigating role in reducing vulnerability of children. The impact of HIV/AIDS on productivity and income requires that children be trained in marketable livelihood skills and income generating activities for their survival and development as well as the general well being of the community in which they live. Those children willing to go back should be supported to take advantage of the free Universal Primary Education (UPE) and secondary school (USE).
- l) Opportunities for building capacity on child trafficking issues in Uganda Bureau of Statistics are key entry points for these efforts in designing an Integrated Vulnerability Module for incorporation into the Uganda National Household Survey.
- m) Funding and budgets at reasonable level, resources be channelled towards social protection so as to absorb many children affected by Child labour and support training in social protection schemes or measures that reduce HIV/AIDS induced child labour.
- n) Child soldiers and other children in WFCL in rebel captivity, need to be repatriated and warring parties be encouraged to negotiate peace. Kony and his commander who have inflicted terror and worst violated of human rights are requested to return or hand over all children in his captivity and those traded in Sudan for ammunition.

### 7.3.2 Immediate actions

**Children:** There is need to raise awareness of in and out school children including those in war zones about the phenomenon of child trafficking. Use of media, educational materials, drama, songs, films, and peer-to-peer networks among activities s can help.

**Parents:** Interventions aimed at educating parents about child trafficking, children rights and other services (bi-laws, support groups, child soldiers and livelihood promotion) which can help to prevent or enforce the law are necessary

#### Further research

A knowledge base built through research and compilation of a database should be created and updated periodically on child trafficking and other efforts to address WFCL; with support of all major key stakeholders at central government, district, NGOs, CBOs and community level. There is an additional need to do more research covering a big area and further analysis of stakeholders to address child trafficking.

#### Training and awareness raising

There is need to train police officers, teachers, local leaders and other law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders including the civil society on how to address the problem of child trafficking including child soldiers.

#### Disseminate abridged user-friendly materials

Development of appropriate print and non print materials on the Child labour policy, Labour law and C-182, CRC and Conventions and other conventions prohibiting child trafficking and enslavement of children should be supported.

#### Scaling up interventions

Interventions have mainly concentrated in destination places especially in urban centres. However, the study noted that child trafficking is also from urban to rural. Therefore, action programmes to address child trafficking both (prevention and withdrawal) should also be extended to rural areas. Safe homes for rehabilitation of victims in the slums in both rural and urban areas to promote counselling, health services, and withdrawal of children trapped in prostitution, trafficking and early marriage need to be established.

**Support to legal reform:** Currently there are efforts to table a human and trafficking bill as well as review of the Children Act 2000. These two laws have a significant bearing on Child trafficking and other WFCL. ILO-IPEC and Child Labour Unit should work closely with the law reform commission and support efforts to incorporate child labour and child trafficking into these codes.

#### Conclusion:

The study aimed at collecting data on trafficking in boys and girls including child soldiers, with the ultimate goal of designing interventions and policies to address trafficking. The findings indicate that Child trafficking for WFCL does exist within and across borders in Uganda targeting mainly poverty affected orphans and those out of schools. Boys tend to trafficked earlier compared to girls, though their number far exceeds that of girls. However, the exact number of children trafficked both internally and across borders could not be established because of the clandestine nature of the vice; ignorance of the community about child trafficking; and apathy of enforcement agencies.

Child trafficking corridors were identified. Child traffickers have graduated from informal to formal networks especially at the borders.

The study established that Uganda is as a mixture of sending, transit and destination country.

The worst glaring form of trafficking is the child soldier trafficking which has recruited many children into combat, hard labour and also exchanged children into wives, domestic workers, sacrifice in the animist Sudan and Middle East for guns and food. Interventions to fight child trafficking are uncoordinated and often tend to concentrate on withdrawal, than stemming the supply of children for child trafficking.

Uganda lacks a trafficking law in spite the fact that it ratified the trafficking protocol in 2000; efforts by LAW-U to draft a bill are yet to yield results. The law is scattered in many

codes and has been found wanting, obsolete and out of line with international protocols for child trafficking

The study has recommended both long term and short interventions including a review of the law, strengthening of victim support programmes, advocacy and poverty alleviation efforts. Further research covering a big area is also necessary as well as analyses of stakeholders.

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## APPENDIX 1

# INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION /INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR (ILO-IPEC)

### RAPID ASSESSMENT ON TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN UGANDA

#### CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE (5-17 years)

SECTION 1A: Identification Particulars				
1. DISTRICT:				
2. COUNTY:				
3. SUB-COUNTY:				
4. PARISH:				
5. EA/ LC1:				
6. Physical Description of Work Places				
.....				
.....				
.....				
8. Name of Interviewer:		Signature:		Date:
9. Starting time .....				
Ending time .....				

#### THIS SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY

International Labour Organization /International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour  
ILO/IPEC.  
Kampala Uganda

#### Consulting team Leader

Rogers Kasirye  
Uganda Youth Development Link  
P.O. Box 12659  
Kampala (U)

Hello, My name is..... am from Uganda Youth Development Link based in Kampala. We are conducting a rapid assessment on trafficking activities of children in Uganda on behalf of International Labour Organization /International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC.). This information will help the government to plan for the affected children. We would very much appreciate your participation in this rapid assessment. I would like to discuss with you issues regarding recruitment, transportation and harboring and what happens to trafficked children. Whatever information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shown to or discussed with other persons. This discussion will take 20 to 30 minutes. At this time, do you want to ask me any thing about the rapid assessment?  
May I begin the interview now?

RESPONDENT AGREES TO BE INTERVIEWED ....1 RESPONDENTS DOES NOT AGREE. .2 END  
Tel. 256-41-530353/256/ 256-77 470190  
kasiryer@yahoo.com

<b>SECTION 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>			
201	Sex	1. Male 2. Female	
202	Age in Complete years		
203	What is your Marital status?	1. Married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced / separated 4. Co-habiting 5. Single	
204	What is your ethnic group?	1. Acholi 2. Lango 3. Gishu 4. Samia 5. Samia 6. Mutoro 7. Munyoro 8. Musiga 9. Muganda 10. Munyankole 11. Adhola 12. Itesot 13. Other (Specify) .....	
205	Have you ever produced Children?	1. Yes 2. No ( <b>skip to 207</b> )	
206	How many children have you ever produced?		
207	Are your parents still alive?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know	Mother Father
208	What are your parents' occupations? (If dead ask what occupation was before death)	Mother's occupation	Father's occupation
209	Marital status of parents?	1. Married 2. Separated 3. Divorced 4. Widowed 5. Single parent 6. Other (Specify) .....	
210	What is your highest level of education attained?	1. Completed primary education 2. Completed secondary education 3. Completed Post primary Training 4. Completed Post Secondary 5. Never attended school 6. Other training (specify) .....	
211	Why did you leave school?	1. Completed desired level 2. To help in the household chores 3. Need to work 4. Cost (fees and other school needs) 5. Orphaned 6. Trafficking 7. Internal displacement 8. Poor academic performance 9. School too far 10. Other (specify) .....	
<b>SECTION: 3. TRAFFICKING MECHANISM</b>			
<i>Origin and supply, routes and destinations (internal and external), recruitment process (how and whom, special recruitment networks ad how they operate, financial gains and how they operate.</i>			
301	Are you stating with your parents?	1. Yes 2. No	

302	If not staying with parents, what led you to come here?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To work in a bar</li> <li>2. Fishing</li> <li>3. Commercial sex</li> <li>4. Agriculture</li> <li>5. Marriage</li> <li>6. Visit</li> <li>7. Smuggling</li> <li>8. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
303	Where do you come from?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. District Specify) .....</li> <li>2. Other country Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
304	Where do you stay in this area?		
305	Do your parents / guardians know where you stay?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
306	At what age were you brought to this area?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1-4</li> <li>2. 5-9</li> <li>3. 10-14</li> <li>4. 15-18</li> </ol>	
307	Who is the head of the household where you stay?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Myself</li> <li>2. My employer</li> <li>3. Friend/fellow child</li> <li>4. Trafficker</li> <li>5. Other relative</li> <li>6. Other (specify) .....</li> </ol>	
308	How long have you stayed at your current residence?		
309	What promises were made to you before you came to this place? (Multiple responses expected)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marriage</li> <li>2. Employment/Job</li> <li>3. Big family</li> <li>4. Better life</li> <li>5. Make more money</li> <li>6. School Fees</li> <li>7. Kidnapped/abducted</li> <li>8. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
310	Who convinced/enticed/forced you to move from your place of origin to this area?(child soldier note about previous place of combat)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Neighbor</li> <li>2. Someone from town I didn't know</li> <li>3. Friends/peers</li> <li>4. Parents</li> <li>5. Relative/guardian (specify .....) )</li> <li>6. Rebels/armed groups</li> <li>7. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
311	Did your parents/guardians consent?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Don't know</li> <li>4. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
312	What reasons made your parents to consent to your being taken away from them?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Idleness</li> <li>2. War</li> <li>3. Famine</li> <li>4. Not in school</li> <li>5. Don't know</li> <li>6. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
313	What benefits were your parents/guardians promised/given before being taken away? (Multiple responses expected)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Money</li> <li>2. Accommodation</li> <li>3. Food</li> <li>4. Employment</li> <li>5. Clothing</li> <li>6. School Fees</li> <li>7. Alcohol</li> <li>8. Drugs</li> <li>9. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
314	Who made the initiative (who made contacts) to recruit/ move you from your home (traffic) you?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Neighbor</li> <li>2. Someone from town I didn't know</li> <li>3. Friend/peer</li> <li>4. Parents</li> <li>5. Relative/guardian (specify .....) )</li> <li>6. Abducted</li> <li>7. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	

315	How were you recruited?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enticed</li> <li>2. Kidnapped/Abducted</li> <li>3. Forced by parent/guardian</li> <li>4. Intoxicated</li> <li>5. Don't know</li> <li>6. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>		
316	How were you moved from your home to the final destination?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bus</li> <li>2. Lorry</li> <li>3. Car</li> <li>4. Walking</li> <li>5. Plane</li> <li>6. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>		
317	How were you kept during transportation to your final destination?	Hidden in car Kept at employer's place Kept at friend's place Abandoned Others (specify) .....		
318	How many children were you during the recruitment, transportation and harboring stage from your place of origin to your final destination?	Boys	Girls	
319	How many people were involved in transporting you?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One</li> <li>2. Two</li> <li>3. Three</li> <li>4. Four</li> <li>5. Five</li> <li>6. More than five (Specify) .....</li> </ol>		
320	What happened during the time of trafficking (recruitment, transportation and harboring at final destination) that you did not like?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Denied food</li> <li>2. Worked long hours</li> <li>3. Beaten</li> <li>4. Locked up</li> <li>5. Sedated</li> <li>6. Confinement</li> <li>7. Sexual harassment</li> <li>8. Starvation</li> <li>9. Kill</li> <li>10. Remove organs/deform people</li> <li>11. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>		
321	Who kept you at the place of your destination?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Friend</li> <li>2. Woman I didn't know</li> <li>3. Person I came with</li> <li>4. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>		
322	What activities have you done since you came here?  • State what exactly s/he does?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sex Worker</li> <li>2. Housemaid/ domestic worker</li> <li>3. Soldier</li> <li>4. Fishing</li> <li>5. Market vending</li> <li>6. Agricultural plantations</li> <li>7. Bar/ Lodge/Restaurants attendant</li> <li>8. Smuggling</li> <li>9. Housewife</li> <li>10. Available / looking for work</li> <li>11. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>		
323	How much do you earn per day for the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not paid</li> <li>2. 500-1000</li> <li>3. 1000-2000</li> <li>4. 3000-4000</li> <li>5. 5000-10000</li> <li>6. Others specify .....</li> </ol>		
324	How do you use these earnings?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Buy food</li> <li>2. Buy clothes/cosmetics</li> <li>3. Pay rent</li> <li>4. Look after family back home</li> <li>5. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>		

325	How long have you been involved in this type of activity?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Less than 6 months</li> <li>2. 6 – 12 months</li> <li>3. 13 –18 months</li> <li>4. 19 – 24 months</li> <li>5. Over 24 months</li> </ol>	
326	What was the main reason why you got involved in this activity of this nature	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supplement Family Income</li> <li>2. Peer Influence</li> <li>3. To be self reliant</li> <li>4. Look for school Fees</li> <li>5. Homeless</li> <li>6. Loss of job</li> <li>7. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
327	Where do most trafficked children staying in this area come from?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Masaka</li> <li>2.Mbale</li> <li>3.Karamoja</li> <li>4.Mbarara</li> <li>5.Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
328	Is there any other member of your family/ household involved in this practice?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
329	Are there other children you know who have been recruited and transported across borders?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes (specify number) .....</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
330	What kind of help do the transporters offer to recruited children?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accommodation</li> <li>2. Immigration papers</li> <li>3. Transport</li> <li>4. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>	
331	Which countries do children go when they cross borders?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kenya</li> <li>2. Sudan</li> <li>3. Rwanda</li> <li>4. Tanzania</li> <li>5. DRC</li> <li>6. Middle East</li> <li>7. USA</li> <li>8. Europe</li> </ol>	
332	What promises are made to the children before crossing borders to those countries?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jobs</li> <li>2. Marriage</li> <li>3. Good life</li> <li>4. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
333	How are they transported across borders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Walk</li> <li>2. Pass through the official immigration</li> <li>3. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
334	What happens to children who are recruited and transported across borders?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Killed/sacrificed</li> <li>2. Sex slaves</li> <li>3. Rebels</li> <li>4. Married</li> <li>5. Work in businesses (e.g. bars)</li> <li>6. Commercial sex</li> <li>7. Drug dealers</li> <li>8. Smuggling</li> <li>9. abandoned</li> <li>10. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
<b>SECTION 4: ASSESSMENT OF WORK CONDITIONS AND LIFE STYLES</b>			
<i>(Characteristics, types and hazards, exploitative patterns and conditions, needs and coping mechanisms)</i>			
401	Which hazards have you been exposed to resulting from the activities/work you do now?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Physical harm/wounds</li> <li>2. Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. Defilement</li> <li>4. Depression</li> <li>5. Working long hours</li> <li>6. Exposure to Chemical</li> <li>7. Working at night</li> <li>8. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
402	What was the cause of the harm?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beaten by customer</li> <li>2. Assaulted by clients' wife /</li> <li>3. Raped/sexually abused</li> <li>4. Worked for long hours</li> <li>5. Too much work</li> <li>7. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	

403	What form of activities/situations do you consider risky for trafficked children?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fighting with rebels</li> <li>2. carrying heavy luggage</li> <li>3. Selling drugs</li> <li>4. Physical torture/beating</li> <li>5. Early marriage</li> <li>6. Working for long hours</li> <li>7. Killing</li> <li>8. Pornography</li> <li>9. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>	
404	What are the biggest social economic problems faced by children like you in this area?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arrest by police and other authorities</li> <li>2. Poor/ non-payment by clients/employers</li> <li>3. Sexual abuse by employers</li> <li>4. Unemployment</li> <li>5. Public attitude</li> <li>6. Homelessness</li> <li>7. Other (State) .....</li> </ol>	
405	Have you ever been involved in any of the following activities? ( <i>Multiple responses</i> ) Yes No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commercial sex</li> <li>2. Smuggling of goods/drugs</li> <li>3. Drug abuse</li> <li>4. Fighting/killing with rebels</li> <li>5. Armed robbery</li> <li>6. Trafficking of other children</li> <li>7. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>	
406	Who persuaded/encouraged you to get involved in the above activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Friend</li> <li>2. Parent</li> <li>3. Trafficker</li> <li>4. Pimp</li> <li>5. Brothel operator</li> <li>6. Self consideration</li> <li>8. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
407	Have you ever been persuaded to move to another area to engage in one or more of the activities in 401 above?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes if yes by who? .....</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
408	Which drugs have you ever used	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mairungi (Khat)</li> <li>2. Marijuana</li> <li>3. Heroin</li> <li>4. Alcohol</li> <li>5. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
409	Where do you go for social outings?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bar</li> <li>2. Restaurant</li> <li>3. Discotheque</li> <li>4. Hotel / lodge</li> <li>5. Cinema / video hall</li> <li>6. Musical shows</li> <li>7. Drama shows</li> <li>8. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	
410	What behavior (s) do you consider risky for children like you trafficked?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Killing</li> <li>2. Violence</li> <li>3. Abusive language</li> <li>4. Drugs abuse</li> <li>5. Unprotected sex</li> <li>6. None</li> <li>7. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>	
411	What were you doing before you were brought to this area?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Never worked Before</li> <li>2. Housemaid</li> <li>3. Bar/ Lodge/Restaurants attendant</li> <li>4. Student</li> <li>5. Housewife</li> <li>6. Petty trading</li> <li>7. Unemployed</li> <li>8. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>	

412	What activities are other trafficked children like you involved in?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sex Worker</li> <li>2. Housemaid/ domestic worker</li> <li>3. Soldier</li> <li>4. Fishing</li> <li>5. Market vending</li> <li>6. Agricultural plantations</li> <li>7. Bar/ Lodge/Restaurants attendant</li> <li>8. Smuggling</li> <li>9. Housewife</li> <li>10. Available / looking for work</li> <li>11. Others (Specify) .....</li> </ol>			
<b>SECTION 5: RESPONSES TO THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN</b> (Prevention, withdrawal and good practices in place)					
501	Have you heard of children who have been withdrawn from trafficking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>			
502	If yes, by who?	Parents/relatives Police NGO/CBO/FBO Fellow children Others (specify) .....			
503	Which NGO/government efforts exist in this area to prevent and withdraw children affected by trafficking?	Mention.....			
504	What services do they offer ?	Mention.....			
	What categories of young people do they mostly target?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adolescent commercial sex workers</li> <li>2. Street children</li> <li>3. Child domestic workers</li> <li>4. Children involved in smuggling</li> </ol>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Male</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Female</td> </tr> </table>	Male	Female
Male	Female				
505	Have you ever received any assistance from any of these agencies?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>			
506	If yes, what kind of assistance did you receive?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legal aid</li> <li>2. Medical care</li> <li>3. Counseling</li> <li>4. Rehabilitation</li> <li>5. Accommodation</li> <li>6. Food</li> <li>7. Took no action</li> <li>8. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>			
507	What problems did you encounter while accessing these services?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stigma</li> <li>2. Unfriendly service providers</li> <li>3. Long distance</li> <li>4. High costs</li> <li>5. Lack of facilitation</li> <li>6. Loss of family contacts</li> <li>7. Others (specify) .....</li> </ol>			
508	What suggestions do you propose to eliminate recruitment and transportation of children to other places in Uganda?				
509	What are your most pressing needs?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food</li> <li>2. Accommodation</li> <li>3. Catering for children</li> <li>4. Medical care</li> <li>5. Leisure</li> <li>6. Looking after other family members</li> <li>7. Education</li> <li>8. Other (Specify) .....</li> </ol>			
510	Any other comments regarding this study				

*Thank you for participating in this study*

**Observations/Comments by research assistant**

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## APPENDIX II

### KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEW GUIDE

#### **For National, Districts and Sub county levels including NGOs, employment bureaus, parish and LC village local leaders and parents**

*(To be used also in focus group discussion with parents, children in trafficking)*

*N: B Research Assistant: Please greet and explain the purpose of the Rapid Assessment*

*The questions in italics are to help you probe for clarity on those items in italics)*

#### **1) Background to Child labour and trafficking: (magnitude, nature, factors that drive trafficking).**

- What form/type of work do children do in this area?
- Are there children in this area who have been recruited and taken else where to work? (Probe education, ethnicity)
- Which are the major sources and places for children who are recruited and transported to work in distant places?
- What type of work/activities are children given or engaged in when taken in other places
- Which age do they prefer?
- Is there preference for a particular sex? If Yes why
- What is the estimate number of children who have been taken to work in this area?
- Why do some parents/ relatives allow/consent to their children to be taken away to work?
- How can you describe the home set up of these families/parents?

#### *Children affected by trafficking*

- What role do friends play in recruitment and transportation of children to other places to work?
- What is the nature of proceeds/promises given to parents/guardians before consenting to taking away their children in distant places?
- Have you heard of parents/ guardians who complain after their children have been taken away in other places?
- What action do they take?

#### **2) Questions to help gather information on trafficking mechanism, recruitment process, networks, routes and destinations (case studies if any?).**

- Who are the people involved in recruitment and transportation of children for WFCL in this area?
- What methods do they use to recruit children?
- How are children transported, transferred from one place to another till the final destination?
- Where are their bases? (Rural/ urban areas) and how do they operate (offices, shops)?
- Do such people who recruit, transport and take away children belong to any group or network?
- Who funds their activities?
- What are the major routes of these children up to their destinations? *(Look for transport means as well)*
- Who keeps these children when being recruited and transported to their destination?
- Which are the major receiving places or areas for children recruited and transported? Probe why?
- Have you heard of cross- border recruitment and transportation of children? If yes which people are involved?
- Where do children go during cross- border recruitment and transportation/trafficking?
- Do you know of any children recruited and brought in this area to work from another country? How have they gotten here? Which country do they come from?

**3) Questions to help gather information on Characteristics of work conditions, types, hazards, exploitative patterns, consequences needs and coping mechanisms (Case studies if any).**

- What activities do children do when they are recruited and transported to their destination? (Probe also of time, and places hiding, slavery practices)
- What natures of rewards/proceeds are promised to children?
- What hazards do children get who are recruited during and at their final destinations?
- Are there children who have been hospitalised?
- Any death recorded? (Case studies).
- What form of behaviours would you consider risky for the children recruited for work in other places?

**4) Responses to the problem of trafficking of children (Evidence of effective interventions (prevention and withdrawal) and good practices in place. (Governments, Legal enforcement, civil society, community based) case studies if any.**

- Have you heard of children withdrawn from trafficking?
- Which NGOs/ Government efforts exist in this area to prevent and withdrawal children who have been recruited and taken to work in distant places? Probe?
- What programmes / activities do they do for them? Probe community and government actions?
- What relevant policies have been put in place to prevent and protect these children?
- Are there children who are rescued from this practice? Numbers and place and methods of rescue? (Case studies are presented in Blocks).

**5) Questions to help gather information on Legal concerns**

- What legal avenue exists to combat recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipts of children in Uganda?
- What legal effort exist to address recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipts of children in Uganda? (Local/ national/ International level) probe cases prosecuted, convicted)
- What are the problems faced by law enforcement officials in dealing with the problem of child trafficking?
- How are these legal problems resolved?
- What suggestions do you have to address legal concerns?
- Have you heard International Conventions to combat trafficking?
- How can we use them to address this problem?

**6) Questions to help gather information on strength and challenges with interventions.**

- Probe strength of programmes/policies/ nature and success/
- What weaknesses or challenges do the interventions addressing trafficking face?
- What suggestions does the key informant propose to stop recruitment, transportation and harbouring of children/eliminate trafficking?