



**Working Paper on**

**The Nature and Extent of  
Child Trafficking in Zambia**

**ILO/IPEC Zambia with funding from the  
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## Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	v
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	vii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Rationale for the current study .....	1
1.2 Objectives of the study .....	1
1.3 Background to trafficking.....	1
1.4 Trafficking in Zambia: An overview of findings prior to this research .....	3
1.5 The response of the Zambian government to trafficking .....	7
2. METHODOLOGY .....	9
2.1 Structure and activities of the research project .....	9
2.2 Research sample .....	9
2.3 Procedure.....	10
2.4 Selection of research participants .....	11
2.5 Research tools .....	11
2.6 Location of the study .....	11
2.7 Challenges faced during data collection .....	12
2.8 What helped? .....	13
2.9 Confidentiality and anonymity .....	13
3. STUDY FINDINGS.....	14
3.1 Understanding of child trafficking .....	14
3.2 Awareness of child trafficking.....	15
3.3 Trafficking in Zambia .....	16
3.4 Profile of trafficked children .....	21
3.5 Factors that make children vulnerable .....	22
3.6 End results of the trafficking process .....	31
3.7 Recruitment.....	34
3.8 Transport and routes.....	35
3.9 Who are the traffickers? .....	36
3.10 Issues of concern .....	38
3.11 Current practices addressing child trafficking.....	42
3.11.1 Re-integration.....	42
3.11.2 Prevention, protection and rehabilitation .....	43
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	46
4.1 Conclusions.....	46
4.2 Recommendations .....	47
REFERENCES.....	51

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ACP	Anglican Children’s Project
CSE	Commercial sexual exploitation
CSEC	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
FGD	Focus group discussion
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPEC	International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RDC	Resident Development Committee
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
VSU	Victim Support Unit
YWCA	Young Women’s Christian Association

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Research participants

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The issue of human trafficking has gained increased awareness in Zambia over the last few years, yet there is still little hard evidence of the problem. ILO/IPEC<sup>1</sup>, through its work to eliminate the worst forms of child labour<sup>2</sup>, is especially concerned about the trafficking of children. With funding from the European Commission, ILO/IPEC led this trafficking study with the aim of collecting primary data from children and key informants. This vital information will assist, it and its partners, in learning more about child trafficking in Zambia. This will consequently enable ILO/IPEC and its partners to work better towards protecting children from trafficking.

### Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were to establish the following:

- The nature of child trafficking in five provinces of Zambia<sup>3</sup>
- How child trafficking takes place;
- Whether and why Zambia is being used as a transit country for children trafficked to other African countries or European countries.

As well as carrying out research, the project aimed to sensitise community members and stakeholders on issues related to child trafficking

The study was conducted in the following places:

- Central & Lusaka Provinces: Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi & Lusaka
- Copperbelt Province: Chililabombwe, Mufulira & Ndola
- Luapula Province: Kashikishi, Mansa & Mwansabombwe
- Northern Province: Kasama, Mpulungu & Nakonde
- Southern Province: Chirundu, Kazungula & Livingstone

Data was collected through the use of focus group discussions (with various community groups, in-school children and out of school children) and semi-structured interviews with key informants, children and parents/guardians of trafficked and non-trafficked children.

### Main findings

Given the illicit nature of trafficking, it is very difficult to ascertain the number of children who have been victims of trafficking in Zambia, however, the research has demonstrated that child trafficking does exist. Whilst it would appear that trafficking is not yet rampant, the socio-economic and cultural factors which increase child vulnerability and facilitate traffickers in their endeavors are widespread.

From the research it would appear that internal trafficking is the dominant form of trafficking. Cross border trafficking and information concerning Zambia as a transit country

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<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

<sup>2</sup> Convention 182, The Worst Forms of Child Labour, includes various forms of child labour that under no circumstances should be tolerated. Trafficking is considered a worst form of child labour.

<sup>3</sup> There are nine provinces in Zambia, with borders with seven countries. While ideally all provinces should have been covered, due to the size of Zambia, only five provinces were chosen.

was less evident. It seems that the cultural practice of looking after children from the extended family has made it easier for those wishing to exploit children for their gain.

The gaps that exist in current legislation coupled with low awareness levels within communities has made it very difficult for the prosecution of trafficking cases. Current legislation does not include a workable definition of trafficking which makes enforcement almost impossible. This is why the legislation is being re-drafted along with a trafficking policy, and both are currently being assessed by the Attorney General's office. Whilst the government is trying to address these shortcomings, a number of impediments exist within Zambia, for example, the large border areas with poorly attended immigration posts and a multitude of unknown/unregulated bush paths provide many unchecked transit routes for traffickers.

### **Who is being trafficked?**

What is the profile, if there is one, of a child likely to be a victim of trafficking? What predisposing factors or vulnerabilities increase a child's probability of trafficking?

The research found that the majority of children who were found to be victims of trafficking were Zambian, predominantly female, orphans and teenagers. Very few cases of the trafficking of other nationalities were found. This could be because a higher incidence of internal trafficking was noted during the research than cross-border.

The following were found to be the main factors increasing a child's risk of being trafficked.

- Poverty – children appear to be at risk of being trafficked as their income is often vital to ensuring the survival of them and their families. The lack of employment opportunities in their locality makes it easy for traffickers to lure children away with the promise of jobs.
- Orphanhood - the high incidences of HIV/AIDS in Zambia and the subsequent orphans (either single or double) has led to many children being without their family support networks to protect and provide for them.
- Cultural factors – this includes early marriage and the cultural acceptance of children being sent away to live with extended family members.
- Education – linked to poverty and/ or orphanhood many children are vulnerable to being trafficked by those promising them schooling, or the chance to earn money to pay for school.
- Dysfunctional families – children whose family background include abuse, neglect or lack support appear to be at an increased risk of being trafficked as they are quick to accept offers that enable them to leave their current situation.

### **Type of exploitation at the end of the trafficking process**

- Children are most frequently trafficked in order to satisfy a demand for cheap labour. The most common employment cited by children involved in the research were: domestic labour, agriculture, fishing, working in shops (particularly in DR Congo) and ferrying goods for shop owners. The first two categories involved both work for family members and strangers.
- Children were also trafficked into the commercial sex industry, for financial or other benefit to the trafficker.
- Also some instances of child trafficking for ritual purposes were mentioned to the researchers and this was linked in some cases to the practice of witchcraft.

In respect of already existing data on trafficking, the findings of this research support the evidence that children are trafficked for cheap labour and commercial sexual exploitation, that girls and boys are victims of trafficking and that internal trafficking is the most prevalent form. This report adds to the existing data by verifying and expanding these findings, particularly through the voices of the children who have or are still being, subjected to trafficking and exploitation.

### **How are children recruited?**

A number of recruitment methods were identified during the research which ranged from the deception of families and children to the voluntary soliciting of help by children from strangers (such as truck drivers etc). Some recruiters offered money or gifts in exchange for children or promises of returning wealth, other children were trafficked through arrangements between guardians and family members or third parties. Religious organisations were also implicated in some of the testimonies, where children were supposed to be registered in their schools.

### **Who are the traffickers?**

According to the interviews conducted the list is long and can include people from all walks of life. There was very little evidence to suggest, from this research, that there are trafficking syndicates, generally it was individuals or groups that are more ad hoc than a syndicate would suggest. Children's parents or relatives and close friends, truck drivers, would be 'husbands', business people, or cross-border traders, opportunists, older children and members of the community with outside contacts were all mentioned during interviews, as having been involved in trafficking. There was also some mention of individuals using the guise of religion in order to recruit children. This list is very broad and by no means exhaustive in terms of the people who are or can be involved in the trafficking of children.

### **What can we do?**

A number of recommendations concerning protective measures to help minimize the trafficking of children were put forward by community members and the research assistants who conducted the interviews. These comprised the following areas:

1. Education: this made reference to keeping children in school, providing quality schooling for children in both rural and urban areas, as well as including information on child trafficking and child labour on the curriculum. This has the dual purpose of keeping children away from would be traffickers as well as providing them with the information to protect themselves.
2. Parenting: both in supporting parents to take an interest in their children's movements and safety and providing sensitization on issues regarding trafficking, the exploitation of children and the importance of education. Promises of education and other agreements should be well discussed, researched and some level of contact agreed to prior to the child being placed in the extended family. This would make it more difficult for those wishing to exploit children and combined with greater awareness should assist parents to make better decisions regarding their children's future.

3. Economic support: recommendations under this heading alluded to the creation and implementation of poverty alleviation activities such as income generating programs, employment creation projects or extensions of school feeding programs etc. to assist families negatively affected by poverty and reduce their susceptibility to traffickers.
4. Legislation and enforcement: this section referred to the creation of sound legislation and policy in the area of trafficking in general and child trafficking in particular. They called for increased enforcement of legislation by police and immigration officers as well as increased monitoring of areas open to opportunism, such as orphanages. Communities believed that the police and immigration officers were best placed to investigate trafficking, enforce legislation, clamp down on weak areas and assist identified victims.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale for the current study

The issue of human trafficking has gained increased awareness in Zambia over the last few years, yet there is still little hard evidence of the problem. As can be seen from the overview above, available information is sketchy and rarely analysed in depth. ILO/IPEC<sup>4</sup>, through its work to eliminate the worst forms of child labour<sup>5</sup>, is especially concerned about the trafficking of children. With funding from the European Commission, ILO/IPEC led this trafficking study with the aim of collecting primary data from children and key informants. This vital information will assist, it and its partners, in learning more about child trafficking in Zambia. This will consequently enable ILO/IPEC and its partners to work better towards protecting children from trafficking.

### 1.2 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were to establish the following:

- The nature of child trafficking in five provinces of Zambia namely: Central Province, including Lusaka Province, Copperbelt Province, Luapula Province, Northern Province and Southern Province<sup>6</sup>;
- How child trafficking takes place;
- Whether and why Zambia is being used as a transit country for children trafficked to other African or European countries.

As well as carrying out research, the project aimed to sensitise community members and stakeholders on issues related to child trafficking

### 1.3 Background to trafficking

Trafficking is a very complex and complicated activity. There are many facets to trafficking and very few trafficking cases are the same. The way the person is recruited, the way they travel, how they are passed from one trafficker to another and exploited are varied. Trafficking can happen to women, children and men of any age and from anywhere and can be across borders or within the same country. The fate of the victim will depend on where they are taken to, what forms of exploitation they are forced into, whether there are authorities there who are aware of trafficking, and whether they are able to escape.

Trafficking in human beings is an old practice. The most widely known case of trafficking is that of the transatlantic slave trade in which many Africans were sold and transported to foreign countries as slaves. Human trafficking is currently regarded as a contemporary form of slavery.

According to Fitzgibbon (2003),

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<sup>4</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

<sup>5</sup> Convention 182, The Worst Forms of Child Labour, includes various forms of child labour that under no circumstances should be tolerated. Trafficking is considered a worst form of child labour.

<sup>6</sup> There are nine provinces in Zambia, with borders with seven countries. While ideally all provinces should have been covered, due to the size of Zambia, only five provinces were chosen.

*“Hundreds of thousands of African men, women and children are being forced into situations of forced labour and sexual exploitation both on the continent and abroad every year. Internationally, trafficking in persons has been identified as a serious threat to human security and development by governments, pressure groups and the UN. But for many African governments, the problem has only recently been acknowledged.*

## **What is trafficking?**

Defining trafficking is still an on-going debate, but the globally recognized definition of trafficking comes from the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organised Crime. Zambia has ratified this Convention.

Article 3 (a) defines trafficking in persons as:

*“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abductions, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.*

Article 3 (c) states that: *“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 subparagraph (a) of this article”.* Within this definition, which was used in the current study, a child is considered anyone under the age of 18 years.

In summary, this means that when a child is moved from one place to another to be exploited, they have been trafficked. Unlike an adult, a child does not have to be deceived or coerced to prove that they were trafficked. Even if a child knew they were going to another country to be in commercial sexual exploitation<sup>7</sup> (CSE), they have been trafficked. This distinction divides the trafficking of adults from children as it allows for the fact that adults are able to make choices and have some level of independence. Whilst this is the case for some children, particularly children who are 16 and 17 years of age, a cut off must be made in relation to age, which, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, is 18 years. It must be noted that for the purposes of this report a child is anyone under the age of 18 years.

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<sup>7</sup> Commercial sexual exploitation in children takes the form of:

The use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind (commonly known as child prostitution) in the streets or indoors, in such places as brothels, discotheques, massage parlours, bars, hotels, restaurants, etc.

The trafficking of girls and boys and adolescents for the sex trade.

Child sex tourism.

The production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children.

The use of children in sex shows (public or private.)

## 1.4 Trafficking in Zambia: An overview of findings prior to this research<sup>8</sup>

The following section provides an overview of media articles and studies carried out on trafficking in Zambia prior to this project.

Discussing child trafficking in Zambia and the Southern African region, an official at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Zambia is quoted as stating that:

*Human trafficking is already a huge problem in the region and is second only to drugs as a profit-making business for the criminal underworld . . . After a few high-profile cases the (Zambian) government is finally taking the problem seriously, though it is hard to catch anyone because the victims are almost always too scared to talk.”*

According to a news article by African News dimension (2005),

*The tipping point that forced government action came in 2005 when a Congolese woman was caught trying to smuggle 14 children through Zambia into South Africa. The case received huge media attention when the Zambian government failed to prosecute the woman because the country had no specific law against the crime . . . After the case of the 14 Congolese children, Zambia hastily enacted an anti-trafficking law, with a minimum penalty of 20 years in prison for a prosecuted offender . . .*

### Cross border and transit

The extent and nature of trafficking in Zambia is still largely unknown. Research<sup>9</sup> carried out by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) into trafficking in Southern Africa indicates that Zambia is a country of origin, transit and destination. As a country of origin, evidence has shown that Zambian women and children are trafficked from Zambia to Malawi and then onto Europe. The traffickers appear to be predominantly Nigerian, based in Lilongwe, but who pass through Zambia on their way to Malawi. To facilitate the trafficking, the traffickers take the victims from Zambia through either Mchinji or Chipata and after providing fake Malawian documents, victims are flown to Europe, with the Netherlands appearing to be a popular destination.

One of the earliest reported cases of transnational trafficking involving Zambian children concerns a group of boys who belonged to a choir known as “Zambian Acapella Boys Choir.” The boys were trafficked to the United States of America (USA) in 1998.

#### Of Human Bondage<sup>10</sup>

Slavery came to church for Sandy Shepherd. The teacher and housewife were thrilled when a Zambian boys' choir visited her Baptist church in Colleyville, Texas, a prosperous city near Fort Worth. Singing a cappella and dressed in colourful African prints, the boys wove beautiful harmonies through their religious music. Shepherd, however, was troubled by their young, drawn faces. “They sang like angels, but somehow looked so tired,” she says.

<sup>8</sup> The following introduction is predominantly taken from: ‘ILO/IPEC (2006) Press Briefing Kit’ and ‘Training Manual for Research Assistants’ designed for the project.

<sup>9</sup> IOM (2003) ‘Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa’.

<sup>10</sup> Bales, K (16.3.2007) ‘Of human bondage’, <http://www.ft.com>

The singers were slaves. All 12 had - at ages 11 to 17 - left the Zambian shantytown of Kalingalinga with an American named Keith Grimes for the promise of an American education and a living wage. The reality was a meager diet, an exhausting schedule and nights spent crammed into a trailer. Each time the boys sang, their "sponsor" collected notes and coins from the appreciative congregation, and kept the money for himself.

### Advertisement

After nearly two years of exploitation, three of the older singers began to fight back against Grimes, who ran a Texas-based education charity as a scam, the proceeds going into his own pocket. Grimes called the police, intending to have the boys deported, but since most of them were foreign nationals and minors, the police brought in the immigration service. US Immigration agents investigated and all the boys were taken into care. Grimes was charged but died before going to trial.

As the small Texas community absorbed the news, Shepherd was asked to take in several of the freed slaves. She and her husband eventually adopted the youngest of the choirboys, orphan Given Kachepa. "I thought I was coming to sing in a choir to raise money for schools in Zambia," he says. "Instead, I became a modern-day slave." Given had come to the US hoping to help his home community and get a good education. Instead, he says, "I felt humiliated - like a puppet on a string being moved around. They said if we called the police, we would be deported. They confiscated our passports and we were not allowed to make any phone calls. We were watched constantly." Given has spoken out about his ordeal and now campaigns against human trafficking. "I've learnt this about modern slavery," he says, "it can be hidden in plain sight."

Given's story illustrates how vulnerable children, such as orphans, can fall prey to unscrupulous people and end up being trafficked to foreign countries from which it is difficult to escape.

As a transit country, Zambia enables the onward trafficking of refugees and other vulnerable peoples from Angola, the Great Lakes region<sup>11</sup> and from the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>12</sup> to South Africa. According to the IOM research, street children from Lesotho are sometimes trafficked by long distance truck drivers to Cape Town, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that children are trafficked on from South Africa, or Botswana, to third countries, such as USA, Israel and Russia<sup>13</sup>.

The link between Malawi and Zambia is also shown in two newspaper reports. In the first, a Zambian national was arrested taking six children and two elderly Malawians into Zambia. The man told the authorities that "he was taking them to his farm where they would work as peasants". The man was fined K50,000 (approximately US\$400 at the time) but remained in prison as he was charged with attempted kidnapping of the same children<sup>14</sup>. In the second report another Zambian national was arrested trying to take 15 children, boys aged between nine and 15 years, into Zambia. The man was fined K24,000 (approximately US\$200 at the time)<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> IOM, *ibid*

<sup>12</sup> 'Child trafficking: Does it exist in Zambia?', <http://www.allafrica.com>.

<sup>13</sup> Zambia, ECPAT International database, <http://www.ecpat.net>

<sup>14</sup> 'Another Zambian in child trafficking scam', Nation Malawi, date unknown.

<sup>15</sup> 'Outrage over lenient fine for trafficking boys', <http://www.alertnet.org>.

## Internal trafficking

According to an unpublished assessment carried out by the Anglican's Children's Project (ACP)<sup>16</sup> in 2004 with support from IPEC, respondents estimated that the majority of those trafficked were girls. The people involved in the trafficking were family, truck drivers, friends, hotel owners, church organizations, neighbours, tourists, business people and older prostitutes. It was also noted in the research that some foreign perpetrators were involved and these were namely from Asia, Europe, America, Thailand, Afghanistan, DRC and South Africa. Whilst the research does not clearly state where the children were moved to it would appear that the majority were moved within Zambia and not outside of the country.

The research did not explicitly state that the children were involved in exploitative activities in the places where they were taken but the responses the children gave clearly illustrated that they were doing activities that most of them did not want to be participating in. Furthermore, some of the answers such as "roughed up by clients" and "shameful and feared catching HIV/AIDS" indicate they are subject to some, possibly various, forms of sexual abuse.

## Routes

Information that is available on trafficking routes is detailed in relation to South Africa and its direct neighbours, rather than Zambia. This evidence<sup>17</sup> shows that victims of various nationalities pass through Zambia en-route to South Africa, a major destination and transit country. However, the IOM research does not clearly indicate that Zambian nationals are trafficked to South Africa for exploitation, but instead transit through South Africa for exploitation in Europe. However, other research states that Zambian nationals are trafficked to South Africa, and to other countries. The Protection Project states that<sup>18</sup> "Zambian women and children are trafficked to Botswana, the Far East, the Middle East, and South Africa; Zambian children are also trafficked to Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo". The variance in trafficking routes is also supported by case studies that illustrate that victims of various nationalities, not just from African countries, pass through Zambia en-route to other destinations and that Zambians are internally and externally trafficked.

## Means of trafficking

According to the ACP assessment, the police in Lusaka had reports of 91 cases between 2002 and 2004 of child stealing (28 cases) and child abduction (53 cases). The ACP report quotes nine cases, four of which clearly relate to trafficking<sup>19</sup>. In two separate cases, two girls aged 14 and 17 years old were abducted and forced into CSE, with their abductor taking all their earnings. In another case two men of Congolese origin took two girls, aged 13 and 14 years, to Ireland under the guise of getting a good education but instead prostituted them. The report also details a case of a Pakistani travel agent and a

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<sup>16</sup> Anglican Children's Project: Draft report on human (child) trafficking in Zambia. September 2004. Unpublished.

<sup>17</sup> IOM (2003) 'Trafficking in women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa'.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.protectionproject.org/zambia>, 'Zambia', date unknown

<sup>19</sup> In the remaining cases, the outcome of the case was not stated, so it is impossible to state if the child had been trafficked or not.

Zambian national attempting to traffic three Afghan boys to the United Kingdom. However, two boys were stopped by immigration leaving the country and another sought refuge at UNHCR.

In 2000, the first official trafficking case was recorded when an Australian national was arrested at the Zambia/ Zimbabwean border taking out five Zambian girls aged between 14 and 16 years of age. The girls were destined for Australia where they would be 'dancing queens'<sup>20</sup>. While there was some evidence that the Australian was trafficking the girls, including a video tape of the girls naked, weak legislation and a strong defence resulted in the case being acquitted. Additionally, the five girls were seen as hostile witnesses as they still wished to go to Australia and earn the US\$ 500 per week that they had been promised<sup>21</sup>.

In 2004 a Congolese woman was stopped at one of Zambia's borders bringing in 14 Congolese girls who were being taken to South Africa with the promise of jobs<sup>22</sup>. IOM, along with NGOs, provided support to the children and the principle trafficker was arrested. However, she was later released after being fined ZMK2 million<sup>23</sup>.

### **Treatment of victims of child trafficking**

In relation to support to victims, victims are not treated as criminals and are referred to governmental welfare agencies or NGOs to provide counselling, shelter and protection<sup>24</sup>. However, evidence suggests that training is needed in relation to how victims are treated, as in the case of the Afghan boys mentioned earlier. When the two boys were found to be travelling on fake documentation, the Zambian authorities placed the boys in prison. It took pressure from NGOs to have the children released to more suitable, safe, accommodation.

### **Reasons why children become vulnerable to trafficking**

Zambian children, like many other children who are trafficked, tend to be vulnerable for a number of reasons, and it is often a combination of these factors, rather than one alone. For instance, a child may come from a poor family but the safety structure around that family is strong enough to enable the child to remain safe. However, in another case, the child may not be happy at home, or the parents may be complicit in the trafficking.

The outcome of the ACP research<sup>25</sup> states that the following are reasons why Zambian children are vulnerable to trafficking:

- Social economic situation/ poverty
- Promises of lucrative employment and businesses outside of Zambia
- Lack of education
- Early marriage
- Orphanhood, resulting particularly from HIV/AIDS
- Belief in witchcraft and the use of human organs in rituals

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<sup>20</sup> The girls had been told that they would be doing traditional African dancing in Australia. The defence in the court case said that the videos of the naked girls were of them doing traditional African dancing.

<sup>21</sup> 'Blind Cry from Human Trafficking', <http://www.changemakers.net>. Date unknown.

<sup>22</sup> United States Department of State (2005) 'Trafficking in Persons Report'.

<sup>23</sup> 'Permanent Secretary Condemns K2m Fine on Human Trafficker', <http://allafrica.com>. Date unknown.

<sup>24</sup> US Department of State (2005) 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices'.

<sup>25</sup> ACP, *ibid*

The above reasons illustrate why children may become easy targets for traffickers. Other literature not directly related to trafficking reveals that due to increasing levels of poverty and the rise in HIV/AIDS orphans, more children are becoming vulnerable to exploitation, whether in Zambia or overseas<sup>26</sup>. Additionally, gender discrimination that favours boys over girls, such as more girls dropping out of school than boys<sup>27</sup>, results in girls often becoming easy targets for traffickers, and the first children that a family will agree to let a trafficker take. Furthermore, child sexual abuse is also reported to be on the increase<sup>28</sup>, which also leads children to seek refuge away from the source of the abuse.

### 1.5 The response of the Zambian government to trafficking

The Zambian government has been taking measures aimed at protecting children from exploitative work in a number of ways. In 2004, the Government of Zambia introduced the Employment of Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Act to bring it into line with the ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention. This states that:

- a child under the age of 13 years cannot work
- a child between the ages of 13 and 15 can engage in light work
- a child is anyone under the age of 15 years
- a young person is anyone under the age of 18 years

Additionally, the legislation includes the activities that constitute the worst forms of child labour<sup>29</sup>, and also follows the same definition of 'light work', as detailed in the ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. The penalty for employing children in any of the worst forms is a fine not less than two hundred thousand penalty units, but not exceeding one million penalty units, or imprisonment for a term not less than five years but not more than twenty-five years, or to both.

Trafficking is specifically addressed in the Penal Code (Amendment) 2005 under Article 143, as are related offences, such as procuring a child or other person for prostitution, which could be used when bringing charges against a trafficker.

#### **Article 143 of Penal Code (Amendment) 2005 – Selling or trafficking in children, etc.**

“Any person who sells or trafficks in a child or other person for any purpose or in any form commits an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to imprisonment for a term of not less than twenty years”.

<sup>26</sup> Central Statistical Office (1999) Child Labour Survey; Project Concern International Zambia (2002) 'Rapid Assessment of Street Children in Lusaka'.

<sup>27</sup> The Zambian Fifth National Development Plan states that “while there is complete parity between the genders for those aged 7 – 10, the number of girls attending school from the age of 11 onwards drops considerably in rural areas mainly due to early marriage”. This results in girls being poorly educated, less work opportunities and more likely to accept offers of education overseas. Additionally, girls who marry early are often married to men much older themselves and if the spouse dies, the widowed child is very vulnerable to traffickers. Furthermore, the spouse may be complicit in trafficking.

<sup>28</sup> ECPAT International, *ibid*.

<sup>29</sup> The worst forms of child labour include all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children; forced or compulsory labour, prostitution, pornography or work that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Currently, trafficking legislation is being reviewed by the Zambian Government, and new, more comprehensive legislation is being proposed. It is foreseen that this will be introduced in 2007, along with policies relating specifically to trafficking.

The Zambian Government's Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development, through the National Child Policy 2006, proposes a number of objectives and measures that should be carried out to stop 'child economic exploitation and child labour' in Zambia. The policy also addresses the need to work to prevent trafficking.

National Child Policy 2006: Specific Objectives for child labour

- (i) "promote a strong and proactive watchdog on child economic exploitation;
- (ii) establish mechanisms that prevent economic exploitation and child labour;
- (iii) strengthen the institutional and organizational capacities for child labour prevention programmes, project formulation and implementation;
- (iv) reduce the high levels of poverty in communities;
- (v) promote the labour saving technologies as a way to discourage manual labour that affects the child most;
- (vi) promote awareness of children's rights in the communities, particularly the commercial farms; and
- (vii) improve the information base on the situation of child economic exploitation".

National Child Policy 2006: Specific Objectives for Child Sale, Trafficking and Abduction

- (i) "protect the child from all forms of exploitation, and
- (ii) prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children for any purpose and in any form".

To meet the objectives the policy proposes the following measures:

- (i) "strengthening immigration laws and ensuring that they are implemented;
- (ii) providing more support to the Zambia Police Service and the Drug Enforcement Commission to operate efficiently and curb any illicit activities relating to the sale, trafficking and abducting children for any purpose;
- (iii) strengthening the cooperation with the International Social Services Network in programmes aimed at protecting the children from sale and trafficking;
- (iv) strengthening the Joint Permanent Commission programmes to prevent the sale and trafficking of children; and
- (v) preventing cultural practices that promote abduction of children for marriage and any other purpose".

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Structure and activities of the research project**

- The research project was co-ordinated by ILO/IPEC, with responsibility for the research phase and report being undertaken by two consultants from RuralNet Associates.
- A Steering Group was formed to oversee and advise the project. Members of the group represented various ministries, United Nations agencies, social partners and non-governmental organisations. The Steering Group met three times, including after the research phase to provide feedback on the initial analysis.
- A Working Group was formed to provide more detailed, day-to-day advice to the project. Members of the Working Group were nominated by the Steering Group.
- In order to ensure that the research findings would be useful, a Data Needs Identification Workshop was held with the Steering Group. This one day workshop provided input into the research questions and target groups.
- Forty research assistants were employed by RuralNet Associates to collect data in the field. Ideally, the research assistants were employed in areas that they lived in to ensure knowledge of the community and understanding of the local language.
- Six monitors were employed to assist with the research phase. All the monitors were labour officers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security field stations.
- A two day training workshop was held in three areas for the research assistants and monitors. The workshop, and specially developed training manual, aimed to provide the research assistants with necessary background information on trafficking and the preferred research tools.
- Directly following the training workshop, fifteen days of research were carried out in the field. At the end of the research phase, the consultants and IPEC staff met the research assistants to collect the data and receive feedback on the data collection.
- Monitoring was carried out during the research phase by the monitors and consultants.
- After initial analysis of the data, a one day validation workshop was held in Kabwe. All research assistants and monitors were invited to attend and provide feedback on the initial analysis and research process. The workshop also provided the opportunity for the consultants to verify any data, and the research assistants to meet.
- The findings of the report were disseminated at a national launch

### **2.2 Research sample**

The sample consisted of various categories of participants namely:

- (a) Key Informants – these were divided into two groups. One group, which will be referred to as professionals, consisted of, among others: immigration officers, labour Inspectors, pastors, police officers, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), social welfare officers, social workers, and teachers.

The group of non-professionals consisted of people from various occupations, including the following: truck drivers, money changers, guesthouse/restaurant proprietors, members of Resident Development Committees etc.

- (b) Community groups (both men and women)
- (c) Children (never trafficked, formerly trafficked)
- (d) Youths
- (e) Parents (never trafficked children, formerly trafficked children, trafficked children)

Qualitative data was collected from the participants through focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews. While some quantitative results can be derived from the data collected, this research was designed as a qualitative study of trafficking in Zambia. In relation to statistics, 43 cases of trafficking with detailed information were recorded and a further 16 cases were noted but lacked detailed information. In order to give some numerical support to the qualitative data, only the information from the detailed cases has been used. Additionally, the sample size changes depending on the issue as the same details were not collected for all cases.

Furthermore, 41 cases that were reviewed did not involve trafficking but included information on exploitation and abuse.

The numbers of focus group discussions and interviews conducted in the five provinces are shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Focus group discussions (FGDs) and semi-structured interviews (SSI) held in the five provinces**

Province	Key Informants	FGD Community Groups	FGD Children	SSI Parents	SSI Children
Central/Lusaka	35	28	31	12	51
Copperbelt	25	26	11	52	27
Luapula	56	54	32	34	41
Northern	62	29	38	45	64
Southern	32	28	20	17	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>213</b>

### 2.3 Procedure

Research assistants conducted the research using key informant interviews at district and community levels, semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with various community groups.

Information on children's trafficking experiences was obtained through key informant interviews, focus group discussions with various community members as well as interviews with children. The stories that were recounted are referred to as 'case studies' throughout the report. It should also be noted that some interviews were carried out with suspected formerly trafficked, as well currently trafficked, children and are indicated as such. However, on review, it became apparent that not all these children had been trafficked, although they had been exploited.

## 2.4 Selection of research participants

In each community the research assistants approached community leaders for help in locating community groups that could provide information on child trafficking. During these discussions leads were provided to assist the RAs in finding victims of trafficking as well as their parents/guardians. Organisations such as the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) that deal with children's issues were also approached to gain access to victims of child trafficking. With regard to street children and out-of-school children, the research assistants identified them by going to places where these were likely to be found, for example around market places, the border, town centre etc. All research participants were assured of confidentiality which was an important aspect of the training workshops.

Children who were talked to individually were mostly chosen from those that participated in the focus group discussions. These were children that appeared to know more about cases of child trafficking than the others.

## 2.5 Research tools

Seven categories of tools were used to collect data. These were:

- Guidelines for semi-structured interviews with key informants
- Focus group discussion with community groups
- Guidelines for semi-structured interviews with trafficked children who have returned home<sup>30</sup>
- Guidelines for semi-structured interviews with children who have never been trafficked
- Guidelines for semi-structured interviews with parents of formerly trafficked children
- Guidelines for semi-structured interviews with parents of trafficked children
- Guidelines for parents of children who have never been trafficked

## 2.6 Location of the study

As mentioned earlier, the study took place in five provinces. The accompanying districts and communities are shown in the table that follows.

The study communities and districts were chosen based on their location in the province, and any characteristics that could make them desirable to traffickers, such as having a train station or a border post or being an important transit point. The selection of the communities was done during the preliminary visits to the districts by the two RuralNet consultants. During the visits, meetings were held with stakeholders in the districts. The purpose of the visits was to:

- inform the stakeholders about the study
- garner their support for the project

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<sup>30</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO)/ International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour(IPEC) (2003) Trafficking in Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans and Ukraine – Manual for Rapid Assessment

- identify communities in which the study could be conducted
- meet with prospective research assistants

Table 2 indicates the study communities and their districts.

**Table 2: Study communities and their locations**

<b>Community</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Province</b>
Makululu, Waya and Nakoli.	Kabwe	Central
Matiliyo and Turn off	Kapiri Mposhi	Central
Kasumbalesa, Kawama and PP Zambia	Chililabombwe	Copperbelt
Chibolya, Kamuchanga and Mokambo	Mufulira	Copperbelt
Kawama, Ndeke and Sakania	Ndola	Copperbelt
Kashikishi, Mubamba and Nchelenge Central	Nchelenge	Luapula
Chembe, Kapesha and Senama	Mansa	Luapula
Mwansabombwe and Mbereshi	Kawambwa	Luapula
Kanyama, Mandevu and Misisi	Lusaka	Lusaka
Chiba, Chisanga/Tazara and Musenga	Kasama	Northern
Musende, Muzabwera and Posa	Mpulungu	Northern
Chiyanga, Mwenzo and Ntindi	Nakonde	Northern
Chirundu Central, Gabon and Jordan	Chirundu	Southern
Border area and surrounding area	Kazungula	Southern
Libuyu, Zambezi Saw Mills/Victoria Falls Border area	Livingstone	Southern

## 2.7 Challenges faced during data collection

The research assistants faced a number of challenges during data collection. These were:

Some research assistants (RAs) faced delays in commencing data collection while awaiting permission from relevant authorities. Others faced difficulties in organising and/or conducting focus group discussions (FGDs) for various reasons, such as members of a new Resident Development Committee (RDC) being suspicious of the research assistants or because of the non-existence of an RDC. In many cases RAs faced difficulties in making appointments with key informants as some of them insisted that they needed clearance from their superiors before they could take part in any discussions.

Some community members did not turn up for appointments as they had to go to their fields for farming or work for food. In some cases marketeers refused to take part in FGDs for fear of loss of business while in other cases people were unwilling to take part in discussions because of various fears e.g.

- that research assistants (RAs) were government officers who would get them arrested;
- that RAs were part of a satanic group collecting data to use against the informants

Since the study was conducted during the rainy season, heavy rain sometimes disrupted

work and floods in certain areas made roads impassable, thus making travel very difficult.

In at least three districts RAs faced transport problems to certain areas, e.g. Mokambo for Mufulira RAS. In Kapiri Mposhi, transport was a problem because there are no mini buses and booking taxis is expensive. RAs at times had to walk long distances and lost time in the process. Some cases could not be followed up because of this constraint.

One major problem faced by the RAS was that of potential research participants wanting payment. Related to this was the complication that some potential key informants were unwilling to participate in discussions because they had not been hired as research assistants.

In some cases participants were reluctant to point out cases of child trafficking because they feared the repercussions after the study. Finally, certain categories of participants such as out-of-school children were difficult to find and/or bring together for focus group discussions.

## **2.8 What helped?**

- Reassuring participants that the researchers were not there to report them to law enforcement agencies
- Using existing structures in the field such as the Resident Development Committees, Area Coordinating Committee.
- In Chirundu being in the company of a VSU officer was seen as being beneficial as participants in one area may not have been willing to speak to the other two RAs.
- Timing interviews to fit with respondents schedules (e.g. conducting FGDs on Sundays).

## **2.9 Confidentiality and anonymity**

Prior to the start of all interviews, participants signed a consent form so that they were aware of the aim of the project and what the information they were giving would be used for. They were also guaranteed that the information and stories provided would be dealt with in the strictest confidence which is why all names have been omitted and/or changed in the report.

### 3. STUDY FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Understanding of child trafficking

Among the key informants, the professionals seemed to have a better understanding of child trafficking than the non-professionals. Very few of these key informants gave a broad definition which included all the stages of trafficking (recruitment, movement, and exploitation). Movement was present in most although some equated it to transportation across borders. For some, it was moving children illegally. Those who mentioned exploitation tended to refer to very specific activities, such as sexual exploitation.

Some of the definitions that were given are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Key informants' definitions of child trafficking**

Child trafficking is where a child is taken to another place for education but they are put into prostitution.
Child trafficking is a child being taken from his/her place without him/her knowing the real thing he/she will be doing.
Illegal movement of children from one point to another by someone who is not a parent or a guardian
Taking of a child from the place of residence to a place where a child can't have people to look after him or her ... a place where a child will be exploited
The movement of people from one place to the other... half the time it is illegal and involves a certain degree of exploitation.
Recruitment of and transportation of a girl child from country to country
Abduction of child from a normal environment to a foreign environment without the consent of parents
Movement of children from one area to another without consent
Movement / deception of the child to move or relocate from one household to another with the intention of subjecting child to inhuman activities or activities that infringe on the rights of the child with the motive of gaining something from the activities / services the child provides.
Movement of children from one place to another with or without consent for purposes of abusing them or for individual gain by the trafficker
Getting a child from one place to another without consent or enticing her/him and putting them into prostitution or house maid. It is a priority issue.
Transporting children from one place to another for evil purposes
Business of exporting children abroad for work. Moving children so that you use them in evil way

A few did not include the aspect of movement/transportation as in the case of the key informant who defined child trafficking as, "*The employment of people below the required*

*age and involve them in abuse.*" This statement is more suitable for child labour than child trafficking.

One key informant showed that moving children from one setting to another for the purpose of exploiting them is an age old practice when he alluded to the story of Joseph in the Bible thus:

*"Child trafficking is an old trend from the Bible. Joseph was trafficked to Egypt by the brothers by means of selling and he worked in Potiphar's house as a houseboy. . ."*

Generally, the non-professional key informants associated child trafficking with movement of children from one place to another although some equated it with moving a child from one country to another. What was lacking in most cases was the exploitation part of the process.

### **3.2 Awareness of child trafficking**

Whilst the research participants were familiar with a few cases of child trafficking, generally awareness levels of this issue were low. In some areas, such as Lusaka and Kabwe, some participants had heard about some of the high profile cases of suspected child trafficking, especially the one involving a Congolese woman who was trying to take fourteen children out of Zambia through the Chirundu border post. A professional from Kapiri Mposhi, for example, stated that he became aware of the problem of trafficking when he read a newspaper article about the Congolese woman who was arrested at Chirundu Border Control *"trafficking children to South Africa."* Similarly, a professional based on the Copperbelt said she first heard about child trafficking through newspaper reports as well as from her workplace, but said there had been no actual known case in the town where she was currently working. A professional from Lusaka had the following to say:

*"We have observed that with sensitization of our officers of this vice, cases have started trickling in. That's why it is more pronounced in the late 1990s but I believe it's been there for a long time".*

The same informant went on to say,

*"With the help of our cooperating partners we are giving awareness training. I'm sure you've heard them on the radio. All our border staff have been re-oriented to look out for such".*

From the discussions it also seemed that very few professionals had had first hand experience of child trafficking. In fact, a number of professionals were of the view that there had not been any cases of trafficking in Zambia, only suspected ones. This may be due to difficulties in prosecuting trafficking cases as a result of the absence of a clear definition of trafficking within the penal code and the weakness of current legislation. Therefore, previous cases may have been recorded as child labour or prosecuted under some other offence, such as illegal entry.

One important observation made during the study was that there is a high level of movement of children both within the country and across borders to neighbouring

countries, especially the Congo and Tanzania. Community members, however, found it difficult to state whether the children involved in the migration had been trafficked or not. Some of them pointed out that they had not been monitoring the movement of people in and out of their communities as they had not had any reason to do so. They nevertheless provided examples of cases that on review could be considered trafficking.

In the Southern Province it was observed that the level of awareness of child trafficking activities was generally quite high. However, like for the rest of the provinces, community groups on the whole did not provide detailed information such as age, sex and number of children suspected of having been trafficked. They were also unable to state the destination of the children and whether they had been exploited or not, but provided useful contacts for further interviews.

The general lack of awareness, understanding and experience of child trafficking among communities and key informants highlights the difficulties in addressing the issue.

### **3.3 Trafficking in Zambia**

This section is divided into: (a) internal trafficking, (b) cross-border trafficking and (c) Zambia as a transit country.

#### **Internal trafficking**

The participants' perceptions of internal trafficking related essentially to a movement of children from rural to urban areas in order to work. This involved either moving from surrounding rural areas to the larger towns in the province, neighbouring provinces or to Lusaka. For example, in Livingstone, children were found to have moved from the Copperbelt (Ndola and Kitwe), Lusaka, Kafue, Kazungula and as far as Mbala

In relation to transportation, trains, pontoons and mini buses were cited as the most common forms. The train appears to be used because it is less vigilant when it comes to checking for identification and other travel documents.

Some provinces and towns were more often referred to for particular forms of exploitation. Children were said to move from the Copperbelt to Luapula province during the fishing season and Kapiri Mposhi was noted for high levels of CSE.

While numerous case studies clearly show that children are internally trafficked, they also reveal that there is a lot of movement of children from one community to another and from rural areas to urban areas. However, many of the children appear to move independently in search of work. While these are cases of exploitation, and often constitute one of the worst forms of child labour, there is little to suggest that the children have been internally trafficked. For example, children moving from the Copperbelt to Lusaka often end up on the streets, with boys doing menial jobs such as carrying things for people or washing cars whilst girls end up in CSE. However, information is scarce on how the children end up in the exploitation at the point of destination, or if a child is known to have left an area, information is lacking of what happened to them at their point of arrival.

Nevertheless, in all the provinces, there are cases where urban dwellers go to rural areas to recruit children for work as maids and garden boys in towns. These cases

usually involve relatives, but occasionally non-relatives as well. This is a well known practice in Zambia which, though culturally tolerated, may be regarded as child trafficking as the children are often over-worked, underpaid, if paid at all, and are frequently prevented from attending school.

Florence<sup>31</sup> is 17 years old and not in school. She lives with her grandmother and helps her sell vegetables in the market. Florence's parents died and she was taken by an uncle, who forced her to work on a farm in Chisamba. She was told she could earn money until she had enough to pay for schooling. She stayed and worked on the farm for one and half years. She was paid ZMK150,000 per month but says "Daily life was miserable – I was overworked and there was no recreation". Florence's earnings didn't go to her, but to her uncle who "used it up and never sent me to school". She managed to run away when her employer gave her some money.

Cases of child trafficking were found in all the research areas. Of the 41 detailed cases 32 involved internal trafficking. The form of exploitation can be specific to particular geographical locations. For example Kapiri Mposhi's position as a transport hub makes it a lucrative place for girls to be trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation.

Caroline, a 16 year old girl, reached Grade 5 but stopped going to school when she moved with her mother to Chiembo and her mother failed to transfer her. Caroline lives with her mother and step-father, as her father has died. Her step-father forced her to sell kapenta and vegetables from the home and she carried out all the domestic chores, even though her siblings didn't. Caroline met a 19 year old woman, Andrea, who convinced her to go to Nakonde, and after her mother beat her for staying out late, Caroline left with Andrea. They travelled by truck and on arrival in Nakonde, "I realised I was in trouble when I discovered Andrea told a lie about having parents in Nakonde. She is actually from Mkushi". Andrea took Caroline to bars and told her she had to prostitute herself. "After one month I started having lots of money, and more clients than Andrea. She got jealous and left with other friends for Serenje". Caroline met other girls in CSE and moved in with them. They were all 'supervised' by Queen mothers and had to pay for rent and food. The other girls came from all over Zambia. Caroline had problems with the Queen Mothers so left and moved in with friends. She continued to work in CSE. Caroline got married to a 21 year old money changer and returned home when her baby was due. She no longer sees her husband. "If I heard of someone who wants to go to Nakonde, I can stop that person not to go". "I want to go back to school".

As was noted in all trafficking cases, but particularly internal, many families do not register the births of their children, this means that most children are not officially recorded as having been born in the country. Additionally, it was recognised that there are no established systems of maintaining records of residents of the communities, so Residents' Development Committees and village headmen rely on memory. In a situation like this, child trafficking can happen without community members knowing much about it.

### **Cross border trafficking from and into Zambia**

Generally, when talking about trafficking research participants spoke about the cross-border movement of children. Some community members stated that many children

<sup>31</sup> All names have been changed to protect the identity of the person.

enter the country without an adult accompanying them. It was also found that on the Copperbelt and in Luapula Province adults and children move freely between Zambia and Congo. In Mansa, the majority of those interviewed mentioned that there was a large number of adults and children travelling to and from the Congo, especially in Chembe. Many children from the Congo, often fleeing war and violence travelled to Chembe with the hope of attending school. However on arrival a lot were unable to attend school because they had to work on farms or sell at the market in order to survive.

Some community members asserted that it was difficult to tell whether children arriving unaccompanied in their communities had been lured by traffickers. However, others said that they were unaware of the movement of children into their communities at all.

In Mwansabombwe, in Luapula Province, it was also reported that adults and children crossed the Zambia-Congo border using the river in order to visit relatives and friends in the Congo. It was felt in this instance that due to the clandestine nature of the travel and the legitimate reason of visiting family that it is hard to state whether children were being trafficked. Additionally, some respondents in the Copperbelt particularly, stated that some young girls marry Congolese men in Zambia, and are then taken back to the Congo.

As well as cross border movement of Zambians and unaccompanied Congolese children, participants also stated that foreign children come into Zambia with their families.

*“These people come with families and friends according to what we know. It is difficult to tell whether they have been trafficked or not as we do not talk with them. But we just see some children engaged in work and are not treated very well. We are told they come in the containers of their trucks”.*

Although there was a level of awareness regarding cross border movement, there was a low level of knowledge of cross-border trafficking cases among research participants. While participants offered many cases that they thought were trafficking, when reviewed, it was often found that they were not trafficking cases. In one district of the Copperbelt, for example, none of the professionals were aware of any cases of child trafficking. One of the non-professionals in this district said he had only heard of cases that had made the news. This lack of identification of trafficking cases, and therefore victims, may be attributed to the general lack of sensitisation and training on trafficking among community members and professionals.

However, there were a number of cases of trafficking recounted by the participants. A money changer at Kasumbalesa border post narrated the following story:

*“I have been aware of child trafficking since I started coming to the border post to work.*

*One woman had two children. She was travelling from Zambia to the Congo. So they were looking very lost and she was very harsh to them. Then the officers-in-charge at the border noticed and called her. Then they started asking her questions. In a short period, the police came and got the children and the woman. When I talked to the immigration officer, he told me that the children were not hers*

*and that she had given some women in Kawama money to enable her employ those children as the ones to be buying things and carrying them to her shop in the Congo. That's how I first came in contact with such a case in 2000".*

Additionally, a professional in a Copperbelt town mentioned that four cases of child trafficking had been reported to her department, one of which involved an American woman and Zambian children who were found waiting to be trafficked. The children were placed in childcare homes and the American woman was deported. In Chililabombwe, a teacher described how for many years children had been taken to other places because of the town's proximity to the border. Also in Chililabombwe, some research participants reported that police had intercepted a suspicious looking couple that were travelling with five children who had dates of birth which appeared dubious. In all three cases a lack of detailed information makes it difficult to determine whether they were trafficked cases or not.

In relation to cross-border cases, two informants narrated the following:

*"I know of a girl who was trafficked to the UK. She was recruited by relatives who came and gave the parents a lot of money promising them that they could find a well-paying job for her such that she would be able to send some money home. She was 15 back then and she went to the UK with the blessings of her parents. This was in 2003. For some time the money kept on coming to the parents but they were told that they could not talk to her as she was always busy and knocked off late. The truth of the matter was that she was thrown into prostitution (a brothel) where she was raped. One day she got hold of a phone and called her parents to whom she explained everything. Her parents panicked. With time she escaped and went to the Zambian High Commission which facilitated her return in 2004. She's back in school. . . She has been stigmatised as having gone to Europe to sleep with dogs, especially by her peers".*

*"Six years ago I dealt with a child trafficking case which involved two Zambian girls who were taken to Ireland by a Congolese man. They were below the age of 15 years. I became involved with the Irish Embassy, contacted the Zambian Embassy who in turn contacted the Social Welfare Department to ensure repatriation of the two girls. The department was involved in the rehabilitation process of the girls. The Congolese man trained the two girls to pretend to be deaf and dumb with the parent's help. He told the parents that he was going to find employment for them. He however, told the immigration authorities that he was seeking medical attention for them in Ireland. When they got to Ireland, he started sleeping with them in full view of this wife who had consented. One girl managed to escape and reported to the authorities who contacted the Zambian Government".*

Furthermore one case was mentioned relating to a girl who had been brought into Zambia from Botswana by a truck driver. While the case was mentioned by two participants, with differing views on what happened, it would appear that she was sexually abused by the truck driver en-route to Kabwe. In one account both the girl and the truck driver were deported, in another, the girl was rescued and received help from an NGO in Livingstone. What should also be noted regarding this case is that it clearly shows the difficulties in relation to gathering statistics on trafficking, as often the same case is mentioned by different people, but with slightly different information, which can thereby affect the reliability of the data collected.

With regard to suspected child trafficking, a number of children during a focus group discussion said they had been given offers by adults to go to the Congo to cut trees in exchange for bicycles, but they had turned down the offer. This was also mentioned during a focus group discussion with a choir. The choir members revealed that they knew a lot of children from the Congo (aged 10 years and above) who ended up within Mansa working on farms and other places, but were mistreated by their employers. However, it was not established whether these children were recruited or forced to stay.

While a number of the participants reported cases of cross border trafficking, they often lack the detail that is evident in the accounts of children who have been trafficked outside of Zambia. These cases reveal that children are deceived into leaving Zambia in the hope of either earning money or attending school. As detailed in the definition of trafficking at the start of the report, a child is trafficked no matter what means were used to move them into exploitation. The following case shows that although Mary was already involved in commercial sexual exploitation and agreed to the move, because of her age and the exploitative situation she ends up in, she has still been trafficked.

Mary who is 16 accepted a marriage proposal from a man in order to get away from her mother who mistreated her. Her father had died. The man left her when she was in Kapiri Mposhi and she was introduced to CSE by Delia, who became her coach. Mary travelled to Botswana with Delia, and was forced to prostitute herself to pay for Delia's accommodation and upkeep. She was also forced to prostitute herself to pay for the transport to Botswana. "I worked like a slave, sleeping with three or four men per night, with that language barriers. At one time, I was beaten upon demanding my money". After being beaten Delia told her there was no point in complaining to the police as she was illegally in the country. Mary was finally able to escape with the help of a truck driver, although she paid for the lift with sex. When Mary arrived home she was beaten by her brother, so she left for Chilanga. Mary now works under the supervision of Queen Mother's in Chirundu, and says "I still enjoy making money for myself". Mary plans to stop CSE and through the assistance of an NGO receive skills training and possibly return to her mother.

Mary's case highlights the risks of being involved in commercial sexual exploitation and agreeing to travel, even with someone Mary considered her friend. Once outside of Zambia, Delia had control over Mary due to her illegal status within Botswana and her inability to communicate with the clients.

Unlike Mary's case where the trafficker was a 'friend', the case of Progress involves her step-mother. In this instance the step-mother lied about Progress' father agreeing to the move.

15 year old Progress went to the Congo with a friend of her step-mother after being told her father had agreed to the move. At home she was made do all the housework and she was told she could earn money to help pay for schooling after she had failed her Grade 7 examinations. She was promised K50,000 per week and referred to the woman as Auntie. However on arrival in the Congo the situation changed. The woman told her she was no longer to consider her, her aunt, but instead her boss and she was made to work from 4am until 8pm. She sent a letter to her father via a friend of his who visited the shop and was collected a few weeks later. She didn't tell people about her experience.

## **Zambia as a transit country**

While some existing literature points to Zambia being a transit country, substantial evidence to support this was lacking. However, the participants in this study stated that Lusaka, Kabwe and Kapiri Mposhi were known transit points. One key informant mentioned a Chirundu border case involving 13 children from the Congo who were in transit to South Africa. Another narrated his experience at Chirundu border with Congolese children who were being trafficked to South Africa. This is probably the same case. The other case mentioned is that of the Afghanistan teenagers who had been brought into Zambia and were stopped leaving the country by immigration officers due to fake travel documents. While there was no hard evidence to show that they were being trafficked, the fake documentation and young age of the children points to this possibility. Some participants in Lusaka/Central also mentioned that children are trafficked through Zambia and taken by air to Europe, America and Asia.

One reason why information on Zambia as a transit point for trafficking may be scarce is because, due to the nature of the process, the exploitation has yet to take place. Unless a child is told that they are being taken to be exploited, it is almost impossible to tell that trafficking is taking place. In order to prove that the victim in transit is being trafficked, knowledge is required of the intention to exploit. Even in the highly publicised case involving the Congolese woman at Chirundu it is speculation that she was trafficking the children as it has not been established that the woman was taking the children to South Africa for the purpose of exploitation. The difficulty in showing intent is also illustrated by the following case. In this example it is impossible to tell whether the woman offering to help the boys travel to South Africa is doing so out of kindness or with the intent to exploit them.

Jean is a 15 year old boy from Burundi. He is an only child and hopes to join his mother in South Africa. He fled Burundi with six other boys and travelled by boat on Lake Tanganyika. A woman on the boat promised that she could take them to South Africa and find them jobs. When they reached Chirundu, the woman started panicking and the immigration officers became suspicious. The woman and her helpers ran off and the boys were taken to orphanages. Jean has made contact with his mother, and she promises to send him money so he can join her in South Africa. Jean thinks the woman was later arrested.

In general, information available from the case studies reveals that children have been trafficked to the Congo, Ireland, South Africa and Tanzania. Research participants, notably from Lusaka/Central Province, were of the view that children trafficked into/through Zambia are from the Congo, Angola Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, Afghanistan, India, Tanzania, Zimbabwe. It was also thought that the borders used by traffickers are Mpulungu, Kasumbalesa, Mwami, Chirundu and Nakonde and when the children arrive in Zambia, they are confined and abused.

### **3.4 Profile of trafficked children**

In relation to building up a profile of 'at-risk' children, community members and key informants stated that trafficked children can be either Zambian or non-Zambian, and are predominantly teenagers of both sexes. These perceptions are supported by case studies; although the majority of those trafficked were Zambian.

With respect to the age and sex of the victims, it is statistically difficult to state a definite number due to duplications in case studies, but it is apparent that the majority of those trafficked are girls. Of the 43 cases, 29 involved females and 14 were males.

Additionally, specifying ages of trafficked children is difficult as many of the children interviewed did not state at what age they had been trafficked, only the age they were at the time of the interview. However, of 36 known ages, either at the time of interview, or age of exploitation, the following was noted:

Age	Number of children
8/9	2
10	2
12	2
14	4
15	10
16	7
17	4
18 <sup>32</sup>	3

This limited information shows that children tend to be particularly vulnerable when they are in their mid-teenage years, supporting the perceptions of the participants.

### 3.5 Factors that make children vulnerable

While it could be said that all children are at risk of being trafficked due to their immaturity and naivety, some children are more at risk than others. According to the community members interviewed for the research most trafficked children come from poverty stricken households and are orphans and it is this that makes them vulnerable to traffickers.

#### Poverty

The following statements were made by a few interviewees:

*“Poverty is a major cause of this because if a parent is rich, they would not allow anyone to go and keep their children”.*

*“Child trafficking could be easy in poor economies as children have a lot of aspirations and envy”.*

*“Poverty has contributed to child trafficking because some parents want to give away children when they just see a small amount of money to reduce suffering”.*

*“Parents/guardians seemed not to mind if a relative took away a child to another town to go and look for employment, as this would bring income into the family”.*

One parent during a focus group discussion said:

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<sup>32</sup> While an 18 year old is no longer considered a child, this has been included as they were most probably under 18 when they were trafficked.

*“We try to organise work for our children in Congo. There is more money there than here. Nothing has come out yet, but we did so because poverty has pushed us to the edge. Even our children wish to work there because most of their friends cross the border and work there. Poverty and starvation, not doing anything in terms of education, is the reason why they want to be in school”.*

*“My children can go any time, because they need to go and make money. If they don’t we will be staying in hunger”.*

Participants in the Southern Province felt that children were vulnerable to trafficking because of increasing levels of poverty due to rising unemployment among guardians looking after children. This resulted in hardly any food in homes and children not being in school because they could not afford school fees. In the Northern Province, some participants said rural areas are more vulnerable to trafficking because there is more poverty in these areas. Children living in border areas were also deemed more at risk.

The issue of poverty was highlighted throughout the case studies where the majority of the children interviewed said that they had ended up in the situation because they needed to earn money either to survive or to go to school. This therefore supports the interviewees’ perceptions.

Precious left home when she was 12 years old because there was not enough food at home. Rose, who was about 20yrs old, approached her and told her life in Kapiri Mposhi was good and would she like to move with her. She agreed, without telling her parents, because Rose always looked nice. Rose then tried to make her have sex with men, one of which had already paid K30,000. Precious refused but earned food and shelter at Rose’s by working in a restaurant and drawing water, but Rose eventually kicked her out. Precious slept at the train station until she found a place with another friend. She is no longer working in the restaurant as it doesn’t pay enough and she can’t return home without money. She talks of finding someone to pay for her food so she can go drinking during the day.

### **Desire to seek a better life**

Some children put themselves at increased risk through their desire to move in order to seek better opportunities in another part of Zambia or even out of the country.

*“My children are at risk of being trafficked because they are desperate to do something with their lives. If only my children could go to school then they would be protected”.*

*“I have tried to find work in South Africa, through a friend who is already there . . . it’s like she’s jealous of me. She does not want me to succeed like her . . . she is in South Africa. She plaits hair there. She went there when she heard that they needed people who could do that. She got a passport and off she went by the trucks. Now she is in South Africa. . She calls. She is about 18 years old now and she went last year”.*

In Kasama, Northern Province, the desire for a better life was expressed as the wish to move from rural areas to towns for an improved standard of living or to 'experience the bright lights of the city'.

From some focus group discussions in the Southern Province and the Copperbelt female respondents interviewed felt the need to go to South Africa to work in hair salons, while boys dreamt of going to South Africa and Zimbabwe to become truck drivers. This shows that given a chance of leaving for better life outside Zambia most children would freely go.

In Lusaka it was pointed out that some young people have gone to the United States of America as summer camp counsellors. The informant who provided this information was of the view that some of these young people have been trafficked because they have not come back home for some years. It could, however, be that these young people have remained in the US out of choice.

### **Limited employment opportunities**

Lack of employment was seen as compelling children to move out of their areas to seek jobs in other towns/countries. In the Southern Province it was observed that due to poverty, most of the children in the community did not attend school and so were forced to look for employment to support their families. It was reported that people living in rural areas experienced difficulties in finding meaningful employment and that children often ended up leaving home and going to seek opportunities in the urban areas. The most common jobs available for children included washing cars at the borders, domestic workers, hawkers and farm helpers. It was noted that there is a high prevalence of children moving from Kazungula to Livingstone and Chirundu for better employment opportunities.

In the Northern Province it was learned that sometimes Tanzanians travel to Nakonde to look for children who would be willing to work on plantations in Tanzania. Other times the children moved to Tanzania independently. Parents / guardians did not see anything wrong with this kind of arrangement as they felt that money would be brought into the family.

The movement of children to Tanzania for employment is not necessarily trafficking in every instance. However, it may place children at risk of being trafficked as they may trust a stranger who offers them employment in a foreign country without specifying the conditions of work.

Sunday, a 16 year old boy, has never been to school due to lack of financial support. Sunday left home because of frequent arguments with his mother. He used to earn money doing piece work. In 2004 he was asked by a man he did piece work for if he wanted to go to Kabwe with him, and his friend, as they had found some work. They travelled by train. On arrival in Kabwe, Sunday was left in a house without food and "life became tough for me". Sunday cleaned, cooked and washed clothes. After two weeks the police came and arrested him as the two men had been arrested for stealing. Sunday was kept in prison for two days, but released as he wasn't involved in the stealing. He contacted his parents and told them what had happened. Sunday returned home, but soon his mother started shouting at him, so he left to live with a friend and the friend's aunt. "I want to go back home but first "nkakwateko akainsangu (money)" to help my parents. I want capital so that I start selling kapenta"

## Desperation for transport

Some children are at great risk of being trafficked as they move from place to place in search of jobs and /or a better life. With regard to transport, a group of truck drivers had the following to say:

*“We get them after border posts. We drop them at the borders – Kasumbalesa, Chirundu etc. Within Zambia we pick them up along the road. They stop the trucks and ask for a lift. Some give us something, others don’t. Some of our friends take advantage if it involves some young girls. They sleep with them. A lot of them are taken advantage of because they are desperate for transport. So you just pick them up and stop somewhere, most of the drivers do that”.*

The story of a girl who was taken advantage of sexually by drivers is a case in point.

16 year old Charity, decided to visit her mother on the Copperbelt. She hitched a lift from truck drivers who were going to Kasumbalesa. They bypassed the town Charity had wanted to go to and stopped for the night in the middle of nowhere where she was raped. The following day they had promised to drop her off but instead headed towards the Congo border. She panicked and managed to run away and was directed to Social Services.

The habit of girls getting rides from truck drivers was echoed in all the provinces. For example, in the Northern Province, it was pointed out that children wanted to move between towns for free or for little money. Some moved from Mpika or Nakonde to Tanzania or Lusaka. In Luapula some participants saw the problem as one to do with gender as girls are known to stand by the roadside to be picked up by truck drivers going to Kashikishi and Mansa. The informants believed they did this for money, pleasure and because of peer pressure.

The drivers also revealed that when they talk to the children who have asked for lifts they tell them that they are running away from being ill-treated, poverty and so on . Within Zambia those they tend to give rides to are Zambians but there are cases where they pick up Congolese children in Ndola and then take them to the Kasumbalesa Border Post.

## Orphanhood

While poverty is a major cause of trafficking, the participants cited various other factors that can exacerbate this situation and make children even more vulnerable. This is referred to as ‘poverty plus’ and means that it is the addition of one or more factors on top of poverty which increases the child’s vulnerability. Orphanhood is one such contributing element. It was stated that the large numbers of orphans is due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and it was repeatedly stated by various participants that many of the children that are involved in work at the markets and borders are orphans. These are among the children who move from place to place in search of better opportunities. Some respondents in the Southern Province stated that orphans were likely to be more vulnerable to trafficking since there was no family support or care. It was further noted that most children involved in domestic work, brothels, farms, car wash facilities were orphans.

Joseph's friend John left with some Congolese who were asking children to go to the Congo and look after trucks. Joseph refused because he knew his parent's wouldn't let him but John is a double orphan and was ill treated by his relatives. 'They used to make him miss meals and send him [on errands] a lot while the rest of the children were just sleeping or relaxing. So one day, he just went away.'

The perceptions of orphanhood are supported by the numerous case studies of single or double orphans. Of a sample size of 29 children, six were double orphans, five maternal orphans and seven paternal orphans<sup>33</sup>. These cases show that even if the child comes from a poor household, the death of one or both parents plunges the family into a crisis, often resulting in a further drop in income. This drop in income often results in the child leaving home to either live with relatives or earn a living. Additionally, once in the exploitative situation it is very difficult for the child to leave as they feel they have no choice as they lack an alternative place to stay.

Chana is one of eight children and had to leave school due to a lack of financial support. Chana's parents died in 1999 and she went to live with an aunt. The aunt died in 2003. Chana's uncle said he would help her with school fees, so she went to Lusaka to stay with him. Chana was kept there for five months, never went to school but "I was used like a maid, doing all the household work alone. But his children could be given whatever they asked for". Chana told her uncle she wanted to go back to Kapiri, but he refused. Chana ran away and complained to the police, but they didn't have any transport to review the case, and helped Chana get a lift back to Kapiri. "When I am told to stay with relatives, I don't think I can accept after what I went through". Chana is aware of trafficking as she knows a girl who was trafficked by her sister for CSE. "I hope in the future someone can help me with money to open a salon and also go to school through night school"

Martha lived with her sister after her mother died when she was a week old. When her sister died, her brother promised to look after her and send her to school. Instead she was married off when she was about ten years old. She was married for four years and had a child. She returned to her uncle's home where she did all the housework. A friend offered to help her out and take her to Central Province. When they arrive her friend asked that she look after her three children for a couple of days as she had to go to Lusaka. She has never returned, so Martha is left minding her child and her friends' three children.

It should be noted that concern was raised in one of the Copperbelt towns about the potential role of orphanages in abetting child trafficking. This was after a number of children disappeared from an orphanage and no one knows what happened to them. Another concern regarding orphans is due to the abuse some of them suffer at the hands of the people who have taken them.

Whilst it did not appear strongly in the research findings, it was asserted by a group of boys in Mufulira that street children were especially vulnerable to being trafficked.

<sup>33</sup> These children were orphans at the time of being trafficked. It should be noted that other children became orphans at a later stage.

Richard is 14 years old and used to live with his parents and two younger brothers in Ndola. When his mother died, their grandmother took them to Lusaka. The grandmother was a business woman and one day she went for business and abandoned the grandchildren and settled in Mansa or Kasama. His young brothers went back to Ndola to stay with their father while he stayed in Lusaka with an aunt. He was over worked and physically abused by the aunt. He went to stay with another aunt who later chased him and he became a street kid.

The first aunt Richard stayed with was sending some boys to physically abuse him while on the street. For fear of his life, he walked all the way to Kafue and got on a train and found himself in Livingstone. Richard stayed in Dambwa and slept in a grinding mill house. Fellow street children introduced him to pot making (a street boy's initiative). Life is still difficult. After selling the pots, put money together to buy sheets of metal for pot making and the remainder of the money is used for food. A pastor led him to Linda drop in centre

## Schooling

Another factor that was apparent throughout the case studies was the influence that schooling, or the lack of schooling, had on the child's vulnerability. As illustrated by Maria's story, the inability of their parents/guardians to meet educational needs means children are willing to leave their homes in the hope that they would receive schooling elsewhere. This case is further supported by the number of children in the case studies seeking schooling away from home. Of a sample size of 24 children, 15 stated that they had agreed to leave home as they hoped to be schooled elsewhere. However, on arrival 24 children, out of 27, stated that they did not receive schooling.

Maria was attending school and happy until her father died. Her mother was unable to pay for schooling so it was arranged that she would go to Tanzania to stay with 'Veera' her mother's friend in order to attend school. She had no passport but Nakonde is a free border and Veera 'spoke' to the officials at the Tunduma Checkpoint. She was doing household chores but well looked after. Lillian, Veera's friend looked after Maria for a while, even giving her books in Swahili to learn from. However, Veera came and took her back. This time she was forced to do all the household chores and look after Veera's grandchild. Even though Veera kept promising schooling, Maria was never allowed go anywhere. Eventually she contacted her mother through neighbours and was brought home. She is now back in school.

It was also noted that there is a lack of school places, as some communities had no high schools, and few had recreational facilities to assist in the children's development.

## Abuse by parents/guardians and broken families

Ill treatment of children may increase the chances of being trafficked, as they are more likely to accept an offer to be taken to a different environment. A group of youths in Mandevu, Lusaka said: "those children who are ill-treated come alone".

A small number of the case studies show that the children who were being mistreated at home, often by a step-parent, left home earlier to avoid the situation. They then became vulnerable to trafficking because of the need to find employment or go back to school.

<p>Beth is 18 years old and moved to Kapiri to live with her sister. Beth had frequent quarrels with her mother in Kabwe and her father has died. Beth went to school in Kapiri, but when her sister's husband died she had to stop school. Her sister left with a boyfriend and Beth decided to stay in Kapiri. She "makes arrangements with men, that's how I am surviving". She plans to go to Chirundu where there is more business.</p>	<p>Robert's parents divorced and his mother moved back to Tanzania. Robert's aunt asked that Robert visit her for a holiday, and as he was nice to Robert he agreed. "But when I moved in to live with her, she changed. I was washing nappies and cooking alone when she also had a daughter at the same age". Robert was put in school, but his aunt didn't pay the school fees. When Robert's sister found out what was happening, she told him to move back to his father, even though his father doesn't work and is sick. Robert would like to work outside of Zambia and become a teacher.</p>
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Some respondents in the Southern Province felt that children working at the borders or those that had become street children are as a result of the broken family system. According to youth FGDs, children who were physically and verbally abused by step parents left home for a better life outside the family system. As a result, they ended up at the border points or in other areas roaming the streets. This sentiment was echoed on the Copperbelt.

<p>Isaac, a 14 year old, is a maternal orphan who lived with his father and step-mother. However, he went to live with a female cousin after he was mistreated by his step-mother. When Isaac's cousin married he could no longer live with her and an uncle from Kazangula told Isaac to live with him and do some piece work. While the uncle lives in a house, Isaac is made to sleep at one of the stands at the market with this 16 year old cousin. They both work for the uncle cleaning trucks, and get a small amount of money from the day's takings.</p>
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### **Cultural factors**

According to a professional key informant, "*cultural values could contribute negatively in the fight against child trafficking e.g. all adults are one's parents, so awareness must be raised.*" Issues such as early marriages and the extended family support network also make it difficult to protect children from trafficking and exploitation.

### **Early marriage**

A number of cases involving older men marrying teenagers came up during the discussions. The cultural acceptance of early marriages for females and the money gained from the lobola (bride price) makes marrying off girls at an early age an attractive option for poor families. It was noted from the respondents interviewed that most underage females were often married off in the main cities. Additionally, once away from the family home, it is difficult for the girl's parents to ensure that she is being appropriately looked after.

*"Another person came to carry out research on child labour...we told him to wait for evidence. I called five women and told them that the man from Lusaka was looking for a girl to marry and take back with him and that he would pay some money...all of them brought young girls the following day aged between 15 and 16yrs."*

*“Hannah was one of my students. When she was in 14 and in Grade 7 her parents married her off to a Congolese trader. When I had noticed she had stopped coming to school, I contacted her parents. They told me she was married in the Congo. I told them I would report them if she didn’t return to school. A few days later she was back in class and told me about the bad treatment she had received in the Congo. Unfortunately, a while later she didn’t turn up to class again. This time she had been married to a Zambian and is still with him”.*

### **Extended family support network**

Traditionally in Zambia, when parents die, children are supposed to be taken in by relatives. Whereas this is good practice, participants suggested that some orphans are mistreated by the relatives who take them in.

*“. . . when parents die, relatives say they would like to keep the children then they end up mistreating them, carrying heavy loads, luggage and so on. They use them like slaves, prisoners. They are not kept well. That’s why they end up on the street. Sometimes parents have many children then they ill-treat the new children. They are used for work, that’s why they are trafficked”.*

In Zambian society, there is also a tendency of getting underage domestic workers from the villages. These are usually recruited through the extended family linkages. As can be seen from the many cases throughout this report, many of these children may be overworked and never enrolled or supported in formal education. Therefore, cultural factors had a role in making children vulnerable to trafficking.

<p>When Anne’s father died, her aunt and her mother agreed that she should move to her aunts and continue her schooling. She travelled with her aunt but on arrival she was made to work in the house and never attended school, unlike her cousins. When she asked her aunt about school she was told that she needed to raise the funds first. The mother heard about the situation and sent some money which Anne used to go home.</p>	<p>George is 12 years old and went to live with his aunt after his father’s death. He is made to do household chores, draw water and bring her children to school. He used to attend school but doesn’t anymore, instead he gets up at 4am to start his days work. He has been shouted at and beaten and never gets breakfast. He has written to his mother but she has never replied.</p>
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### **Socialisation practices**

According to some informants the practice of teaching children that they should obey all adults could put them at risk of being trafficked. This is illustrated in the newspaper article:

By JUDITH HARA and RICHARDS MWANZA

. . . Melody Chansa reports from Kasama that police in Isoka have arrested a 24-year-old ex-convict for alleged child trafficking. The suspect was arrested at the weekend as he attempted to sneak five children to an unknown place with the view of trafficking

them to a neighbouring country. Northern Province Deputy Police Chief Remmy Kajoba confirmed the arrest of the man in an interview in Kasama yesterday.

Mr Kajoba said the man went to a stream where the five children, all of them boys, were playing and enticed them with some sweets. He told the boys that he had more sweets and biscuits and advised them to follow him to an unknown place. The children are aged between three and seven. As they followed him to a nearby bush, some people who recognised the man as an ex-convict got suspicious and reported the matter to the children's parents who later, with the help of other concerned residents, gave chase after the man. "When this man sensed danger, he started running with two youngest children aged three and four whom he lifted on his shoulders leaving the other three behind but was apprehended and is currently detained in police custody. He has been charged with child trafficking," Mr Kajoba said.

When interrogated, the suspect told police that the act was arranged with businessmen from a neighbouring country who wanted to buy the children. "This man also told the police that he had suffered a lot and needed to make some money by engaging in child trafficking," he said. The suspect who had served a two-year sentence for theft was released two weeks ago. He is expected to appear in court soon.

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

### **Civil strife and war in their country of origin**

Communities in Lusaka pointed out the existence of foreign children who had come as refugees from Burundi and Congo. A group of children in Lusaka when asked about what they knew of the families of foreign children in their communities said: "*they come from stable families. They are mostly fleeing their war torn countries*". Participants in Kapiri Mposhi also mentioned Somalians who had come as refugees. Children fleeing war-torn countries were also referred to in all the other provinces. For example in Mpulungu it was stated that, "*War in Congo forces children to move into Zambia*". Key informants interviewed from Kazungula revealed that many children from Angola and the Congo crossed into Zambia as a result of civil strife and wars in their countries of origin. Most of the children were reported to have either walked to the Zambian borders or used pontoons or canoes to cross into Zambia for better livelihoods.

Though these may not be cases of child trafficking, this is an area that requires further consideration as refugee children are not always able to carry documentation proving who they are, and it is easy for them to be included into families other than their own. While this is often in the best interests of the child as their own family may have been killed, it is nonetheless difficult to monitor the welfare of the child.

### **Geographical location and routes**

Perceptions relating to geographical location revealed that border areas with bush paths and river crossings, such as Chililabombwe, Chirundu and Kazungula, were particularly susceptible to trafficking. It was observed in the Northern and Central Provinces that the geographical location of towns like Lusaka and Kapiri Mposhi makes them vulnerable to the crime of trafficking. Kapiri Mposhi is a central transit point for people travelling to the Copperbelt, Central and the Northern provinces. Additionally, the Tanzania - Zambia railway terminates at Kapiri Mposhi which means that there are always people moving to

and from Tanzania. Lusaka, on the other hand, has an attraction as the capital city of the country.

### **Involvement in commercial sexual exploitation**

As the case studies indicate a number of the girls who had been trafficked were already involved in commercial sexual exploitation, or continued in CSE even after their original trafficker had moved on. In Chirundu and Kapiri Mposhi it was repeatedly said that there is *“a lot of business for CSE in these parts”*. In Mwansabombwe, participants felt that some of the children at high risk of being trafficked were those girls already engaged in CSE and were in the habit of getting lifts from strangers, for example truck drivers and marketeers going to Kashikishi and Mansa.

*“Most of the girls around here are prostitutes; even very young girls as young as 9 years of age. . . . Some of them are taken by rough truck drivers who dump them somewhere then they have to find their way back. . . . Most of the girls head for Nakonde . . . . Some go for over two years. . . . Most of them just disappear. There is also another girl (16 years) who disappeared. After about two years she reappeared and dumped her baby with the mother (baby’s grandmother) and took off again. . . . We just need jobs in Kapiri. Somehow we can’t blame our friends because there is no other way of getting money”*

### **Gender**

While not explicitly noted by the respondents the case studies clearly illustrate that girls are more at risk of being trafficked than boys. This is due to the cultural perception that because girls will marry and move to the husband's home, it is less beneficial for families to invest in daughters. Girls are often taken out of school in order to get married, and due to the fact that most clients of prostitutes are male there is a higher demand for the services of females, which results in girls being more at risk of being trafficked for CSE than boys.

As can be seen from the above children subjected to multiple vulnerabilities are increasingly likely to be at risk of trafficking also. For example, a girl whose parents have died becomes vulnerable to leaving school because she has to work. Her search for work may lead her into an exploitative situation, such as commercial sexual exploitation. Through this activity she may be moved around the country, be put at risk of violence from clients and contracting sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. Without schooling, and support network the vicious cycle of vulnerability is perpetuated.

### **3.6 End results of the trafficking process**

Children are trafficked into various forms of exploitation and some children are trafficked into multiple forms of exploitation, for example domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. The overall aim of the trafficker is to profit from the child.

### **Cheap labour**

The trafficking of children from rural to urban areas or from poor communities to more affluent communities within the same town is done mostly for labour. The issue of children working as domestic labourers has already been mentioned as it is an accepted cultural practice. However, due to the very nature of the activity, domestic labour takes

place 'behind closed doors' making it harder to detect exploitation. Of the 43 children reported to have been trafficked, 23 had been exploited through domestic work.

<p>Elizabeth was taken to Lusaka by her auntie. She said she would find a job for her in the saloons or any restaurant at Manda Hill and the Arcades. So off they went, using a bus. She looked very happy because here, she was not in school and she was just playing around with boys. When they got to Lusaka, they started using her as a maid. She would cook all the meals, wash clothes, look after the baby and had no time to play with her friends.</p>	<p>Laura, a 16 year old double orphan was adopted by uncle on the pretext of looking after her and taking her to school. She started school but the uncle stopped paying the fees. Laura's aunt overworked and physically abused her. She started missing classes due to lack of payment of school fees. The school allowed her to attend classes for free and went to school for a term and half. Afterwards she stopped school. It was found out that she was put on a bus to the Copperbelt to a place she didn't know".</p>
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Patrick was taken by his uncle when he was about 16 because his parents could no longer afford to pay for schooling. He worked on his uncle's farm with his cousins during the summer but when term started they all went to school whilst he continued to work. When he approached his uncle he was told his grades were too bad and from then on was never allowed to leave the farm. He managed to contact his father's neighbour when his uncle's phone was left unattended and was collected. His father was extremely distressed that his own brother could have abused his child in this way.

The practice of children being engaged as farm labourers<sup>34</sup> as in the case of Patrick above, came out prominently in the Central Province where it was mentioned that children are taken to farms in Chisamba and Mkushi for labour exploitation. Some of the children who have returned from these farms have complained of being overworked. On the Copperbelt the experience was more to do with being exploited on relatives' farms or for hawking or ferrying goods.

Peter is now 16 and in Grade 9 but after his father died, when Peter was in Grade 1, his brother took him to his home. He lived with his brother and his brother's wife and three children (two boys and a girl). The boys were in school but the girl was not. Peter was never put in Grade 2 and was made to do household chores and fetch water. At nights he had to sell cigarettes in the local bars until late. His mother found out about his treatment and sent his sister to collect him and bring him to his uncle. Here he returned to school. His uncle died and his mother kept him. When she died his grandmother looked after him for a while and then his sister took him in. He has continued his schooling ever since he came back from his brother's.

The use of children as cheap labour in the extended family network as a result of poverty and/or cultural factors is clearly illustrated by the cases above and has already been mentioned. In numerous other case studies children described how they were promised schooling or a better life if they moved to their relatives homes. However, many were then subjected to exploitation. In some circumstances this was intentional but in others it

<sup>34</sup> The issue of children travelling to Tanzania to work on plantations was also raised, but there is not enough evidence to indicate that they have been trafficked or end up in exploitative conditions.

was due to a death in the child's family and relatives become unwilling guardians who sometimes took advantage of the situation. While the latter case fits with the trafficking definition, as many of the guardians travel to the child's home, transport them to their own home and then exploit them, they have become unwitting 'traffickers' due to cultural expectations.

### **Commercial sexual exploitation**

Commercial sexual exploitation of children seems to be widespread but appears to be more prominent in areas such as Kapiri Mposhi, Chirundu and Nakonde. This could be attributed to the presence of truck drivers and business men in these areas.

This was the most common reason for internal trafficking of the girl-child<sup>35</sup>, especially in Kapiri Mposhi, whereas commercial sexual exploitation was hardly mentioned by respondents in Chililabombwe. It was also said to be a reason for cross border trafficking.

*"When in South Africa, I had an encounter with a Zambian girl who was cheated that she would find employment in South Africa but when she got there she ended up working in a brothel to survive. She is 15 years old and is expecting a child and doesn't want to come back to Zambia".*

### **Early marriage**

This was mentioned on the Copperbelt, Luapula and Northern Province. On the Copperbelt a number of stories were told of children getting married to older men who sometimes took them to the Congo without their parents' permission. It was widely thought that the men's motive for entering into such marriages was to allay suspicion from law enforcement officers that they were illegal immigrants. A man who is married may be less likely to be suspected of being an illegal immigrant than one who lived on his own.

### **Ritual purposes**

The use of body parts and children in rituals performed by traditional healers was raised by respondents. Although there were no clear-cut cases of trafficking for ritual purposes, this was mentioned in a number of places. One boy on the Copperbelt said:

*"I just know the issue of people who steal children and then remove some parts of their body. One was stolen from a compound called Mine Area. They were stolen and then taken to Lusaka and their body parts were removed. The people were talking about it and everyone knows about it".*

In the Southern Province, respondents felt that some children were trafficked for ritual purposes as it had become "so prevalent in this part of the country" Trafficking in children for ritual purposes also came up in Luapula Province. In Northern Province, the story below was narrated:

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<sup>35</sup> Of the 43 detailed trafficking cases 11 were reported to be of girls involved in sexual exploitation. In not all the cases was it made clear whether it was a commercial transaction.

*“A Zambian in Lusaka had asked another Zambian man to get him a young girl in return for K20m. The man then travelled to Mpulungu and told his friend who later told another friend. The last person told took his niece and transported her to Lusaka. In Lusaka, the man offering the money took the girl to a room and smeared some red soil from the graveyard on her forehead and she disappeared. Relatives of the girl reported the matter to the police and the three men were arrested and charged with child trafficking”.*

### 3.7 Recruitment

The participants mentioned a number of ways through which children were recruited. Relatives were said to often use deception to convince the child's parents to entrust them to their care. As stated earlier, the promise of schooling is often one such lie. According to a key informant:

*“Mostly they use sugar-coated words. They use family ties e.g. “You are my nephew. I will take you to school. But end up using them badly.”*

*“My son is now 17 years old but at the time things were hard, so I agreed. Then seeing that it was my own brother, I was very comfortable with the idea and you know in Africa, your brother's child is your own. So they went to Chisamba where he has a farm”.*

The high numbers of orphans interviewed show children are not always actively recruited, but are simply taken by their relatives on the death of their parents or guardians.

In the Northern Province it was revealed that children are recruited through promising them a good life and things. During the recruitment process, both guardians and children are promised good standards of living and continuation of education for children. In many instances it was noted that there was very little communication or none at all between trafficked children and the guardians or family members. The end result of this recruitment was that children were over-worked, underpaid or not paid at all. From the discussions, it was established that trafficked children were also physically, verbally and sexually abused. In most cases, trafficked children hardly went to school.

However, sometimes parents are aware of the relative's intentions towards their child, but due to poverty or lack of schooling opportunities agree for their children to go.

*“I have several times tried to organise work for the older one. One went to work in the Congo. He was about 16 years old last year but came back when he fell sick”.*

In the case studies children were rarely consulted regarding the move, and even if they were aware that they may be working, were misled about the conditions they would be working in. As stated earlier in the report, whether a child agrees to the move is irrelevant as no one under the age of 18 years can consent to being trafficked.

In the Copperbelt, respondents stated that children are used by shop owners who go into poor communities and offer money to parents/guardians and say they would like to employ their children. Progress' story on page 20 is an example of this.

In Mpulungu, a focus group discussion with adults revealed that in 2005, members of a religious group travelled to Mpulungu to recruit children into their faith. When the children were taken to Lusaka, it was discovered that they were ill-treated, and it was rumoured that they were being trained as child soldiers. The government ordered their return to their villages. As detailed in the beginning of the report, the case of the choir boys recruited by a Christian organisation is another example.

The variety of recruitment practices is revealed by the case of Lucy. Under the guise of being a boyfriend, the truck driver was able to convince her to go on a journey with him. Once in unfamiliar surroundings, and unable to escape she was repeatedly raped. On returning home, the driver handed Lucy money, apparently in payment for her 'services'. While Lucy assumed that she had a romantic relationship with the truck driver, his payment shows he viewed it as a commercial transaction.

When Lucy was in school she was befriended by a truck driver who promised to pay her school fees. He began to visit her home but the family wasn't aware of their relationship. One day he asked Lucy to accompany him to Mpula, at first she refused, but he told her that he wanted to marry her and she trusted him. When they arrived in Mpula, he told her they had to go to Mpika. For four days, while the truck was being loaded with seed, he forced her to have sex by threatening to leave her behind where she knew no-one. When they returned home he gave her K180,000 and said he would visit the next day. Her mother was mad but eventually forgave her. She now has a baby and has not seen the truck driver since.

### 3.8 Transport and routes

Respondents from all provinces mentioned trucks, buses and cars as forms of transport used for internal and cross border trafficking. In Lusaka/Central a number of key informants also cited airplanes. On the Copperbelt, children were thought to travel on foot or by bicycle through the bush in order to avoid going through immigration.

Talking about how children get into the Congo, female street children on the Copperbelt stated the following:

*"It is near so they walk there through the bush. They get on the trucks. Some just wait at the border. When the officers look somewhere else, they pass through and go in".*

In the Southern Province trains, pontoons and minibuses, trucks, pickups and buses were cited as the most common modes of transport. The train was mostly utilised by children as it was considered easier to avoid being checked for identification and other travel documents. It was also noted that others gained entry into Zambia by walking, canoeing and through the use of pontoons.

Life was hard for Justin before his mother got ill and passed away. He used to sell sweets and go to school. His sister stayed with his aunt but his grandmother took him after the funeral and things became worse. He was sent to work in the field and never attended school. Justin was allowed to play after working but the work was too much and sometimes he went days without meals. Things were so bad that he ran-away. He hitched a lift on a truck to Lusaka, slipped on a train to Kitwe without a ticket and then hitched another lift with a truck driver to get back to his

aunt. Only his aunt and sister know the story.

Furthermore, in Northern Province, ships were also mentioned.

Yvonne, at age 15 years, travelled from the Congo with a man and managed to get as far as Kasama without any papers. She had been shielded by the crew of a ship at Mupulungu as they never get checked. She was discovered at the TAZARA post with no documents and they would not let her pass. The man claimed she was his daughter and that he would return for her with documents. She was put in prison for a number of months even though on interrogation she stated that the man was not her father and that she knew nothing about him or where she was going. The man never returned.

The case studies show that children who had been trafficked were transported by rail, road (trucks and buses), air and water transport (canoes). This confirms respondents perceptions about how children are transported.

In relation to the routes taken, the report has already indicated that certain geographical areas are attractive to traffickers and due to the limited number of major roads in Zambia, the routes used are those that enable the trafficker to reach this destination. Additionally, routes to border towns are utilised. For the trafficking of children by relatives, there are no defined routes, although the evidence suggests it is from rural to urban areas.

### **3.9 Who are the traffickers?**

According to the research participants, traffickers can be anybody, but are usually individuals, possibly working in groups, rather than more organised syndicates. One key informant on the Copperbelt mentioned South Africans, whom he said were targeting young ladies who are desperate for jobs. These girls were promised jobs as waitresses and hairdressers. He further stated:

*“Traffickers are genuine people with proper travel documents. You cannot suspect them. They offer transport money to girls and obtain travel documents. When they come to the border they don’t allow victims to appear to the immigration officers. At the border, the trafficker comes to the immigration counter and does clearance of everyone in the car”.*

It should be noted that this officer had not come across any cases of child trafficking in the town where he was based.

In Lusaka some key informants were of the view that internal trafficking is predominantly done by individuals, whilst external trafficking is done by both individuals and organised syndicates. Individual traffickers can be both males and females.

People whom research participants associated with being child traffickers were the following:

## The children's parents, relatives and friends

This involves biological and step-parents, as well as friends of the family and of the children. As evident in the numerous case studies already quoted throughout the report, this appears to be the most common group involved in trafficking.

<p>Thomas was well looked after until his parents died. His uncle volunteered to look after him and made him all kinds of promises in order to encourage him to go stay with him. When he arrived, the situation was very different. He worked all day in the house and was never sent to school. Thomas decided to get part-time work in order to save the money and pay for his trip home, whilst still pretending to his uncle that he was going to school. He managed to get the money together and returned home.</p>	<p>John is 17 and is in Grade 9. His father was a craftsman while his mother was a marketer. John was well looked after before the death of his parents. When they died, his uncle took him to Chililabombwe and volunteered to look after him. John was promised good things to encourage him to travel. He travelled to Chililabombwe by road. When he got to Chililabombwe, he was overworked. He did house chores which his uncle's children never did. On one occasion he pretended to be going to school, but instead he went to do piece work to raise money for transport back home in Kasama. He succeeded in raising the money.</p>
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Rachel is 16 years old and has completed Grade 5. Rachel lived with an aunt, as her parents lived on a farm. Another aunt wanted to look after her, and while the aunt Rachel was living with didn't want her to go, her parents agreed. Once at the aunt's house she was made to carry out domestic work, and for two years wasn't allowed to attend school. Eventually, the aunt agreed that Rachel could return home. On her return Rachel says of her parents "They are supportive in every way and my mother and father have learnt that very few people can take care of their sister's or brother's children".

## Truck drivers

Truck drivers were persistently accused of being involved in child trafficking. Information obtained through a focus group discussion with truck drivers on the Copperbelt revealed that truck drivers did in fact give lifts to children and that they transported them across the borders. It was reported that the truck drivers would pick them up on the road, with some children paying for lifts, sometimes through sex, and others not. As a result, some truck drivers took advantage of the children (girls) and abused them sexually. A group of marketeers in Kasumbalesa supported this view and stated that truck drivers gave lifts to children. However, an international truck driver with 34 years of driving experience claimed he had not heard of any cases and that he had never seen any truck driver carrying a child in his truck. He added the following:

*"It can never happen. How will any driver carry a child in a company vehicle without being questioned by border officials? Drivers are not allowed to carry unauthorised passengers. No child can travel without money, a passport and without a place to stay. ."*

## Adult men who take children as wives

A number of cases were narrated of underage girls who were taken away as wives by older men. This was reportedly mostly done by Congolese men who took away children without the consent of the girls' parents. This does not mean their actions would have been appropriate had they sought the permission of the girls' parents.

Theresa was in school but failed her Grade 9 exams. She got married to a Congolese man and looked after him and their child. He decided to move back to the Congo because business wasn't working out in Zambia and asked if she would like to come with him. She agreed in order to save her marriage. When she arrived she was greeted by his Congolese wife and children. She wasn't allowed to stay with his family and he stopped supporting them, beating her when she complained. She hitched a ride home with truck drivers and is receiving support from her family and a local NGO, though the women in her community taunt her.

Respondents also mentioned the following as possible traffickers:

Strangers such as shop owners and prospective bosses

Cross border traders

Local agents that recruit children

Women who are commonly known as "queen mothers" operate brothels and send out older children to recruit new, younger, children for CSE. The queen mothers provide accommodation for the children and induct them into commercial sexual exploitation. The children have to pay rent to the 'queen mothers', in addition to a percentage of the children's earnings.

An analysis of case studies confirms the participants' perceptions regarding traffickers as all those mentioned above were contained in the children's interviews.

### 3.10 Issues of concern

While outside the mandate of this research, various issues arose that are alarming. As already detailed throughout the report, orphanhood, early marriages and commercial sexual exploitation are prevalent in Zambia and demonstrate the severe vulnerability of children.

Petronella is 18 and not attending school. She lives alone and works in a bar selling beer. Her mother is in Luanshya and her father is dead. Her step-father refused to pay for her school fees and she was made to do the house work. Petronella left home when she was 14 years old. A family friend approached Petronella's mother and said she would take her and her sister to Ndola to work in a restaurant. The mother agreed and they worked in the restaurant for ZMK70,000<sup>36</sup> a month. "I was hoping to get something better but I was still happy because I was staying with them. She also gave me food". In 2005 Petronella's cousin was sent to take her to Lusaka to stay with the sister. When they arrived in Lusaka they didn't find the sister, so stayed with the sister's neighbour. She introduced them to bars and she introduced Petronella to CSE. "At least she used to provide everything. We were now told to contribute money for food, house rentals and other necessities". Petronella met someone who offered her a job in a bar, but she soon met her friend again and they travelled to Kapiri. They are involved in CSE and Petronella

<sup>36</sup> As of April 2007, ZMK70,000 is approximately USD18.00.

says she is happy in Kapiri. "With time we decided to even stay longer because we managed to make some more money here than anywhere else we went to. Men in Kapiri are business people so they have money everyday".

Also worrying are apparent high levels of abuse, neglect, mistreatment of children and abandonment.

### Child abuse

The following case studies provide an insight into the experiences of some of the children interviewed during the research.

Felicity was 12 year old when a 17 year old boy told his older sister that he wanted to marry Felicity. The boy's sister told Felicity that she should go to the maize fields to collect some maize cobs. She followed Felicity, grabbed her and forcefully took her to the brother's home. She was kept and locked up for three days before Felicity's parents knew where she was. While Felicity stayed with the boy they lived 'as husband and wife'. Felicity's parents were able to rescue her and took her home. The boy insisted he wanted to marry Felicity but her family said they wanted to take the girl back into school.

James, a maternal orphan, travelled to Kapiri alone by bus at the age of 11 and started living with father and stepmother. When his father died, the stepmother mistreated him. His uncle promised to take him to Livingstone by train to his home. When reached the train station, his uncle was not there. He travelled to Livingstone by train and upon arrival police picked him up and left him at Linda drop in centre where he is currently in school

10 year old paternal orphan, Moses, was taken by his uncle after his father's death, under the auspices that he would be put in school. However, on arrival he was made to do all the domestic chores in the household whilst his cousins attend school. He then went to live with an aunt who forced him to sell bananas. After the arrival of another uncle, he was allowed to go to school if he worked hard before and after school. He is in contact with his mother who lives in Lusaka but is scared to tell her about his ill-treatment in case his uncle kicks him out of the house

*Beatrice feels very sorry for her neighbour's niece. The neighbour collected the niece after her parents died 2 years ago. She is young and is treated like a maid in the house, doing chores all day. Beatrice has heard the neighbour berate the child saying, "You dog, as if you buy mealie-meal at this house. Your mother died of HIV/AIDS. Get out".*

Paul, a 16 year old from Kabwe, went to live with his uncle when his parents died. Instead of going to school he was mistreated. He left his uncle's home and travelled to Lusaka by bus where he became a street kid. He was taken to an NGO but due to overcrowding he escaped and travelled to Livingstone by train with some of the fellow street kids. They didn't pay for the fare but managed to dodge the ticket man. In Livingstone a lady advised him to go to a drop-in centre.

## Children as commodities<sup>37</sup>

Along with the more prevalent forms of exploitation, the researchers also found some unusual cases of children being used as commodities. Samuel, for example, was left as a guarantee by his mother after she took out a loan from a moneylender.

Samuel's mother borrowed some money to order goods to sell from her friend. In return for the loan, Samuel was left as a guarantee that his mother would pay back the money. Three months later, the woman looking after Samuel died and Samuel, only four years old, was left without anyone to look out for him. He was moved from family to family and the market areas until one marketer agreed to look after him temporarily. However, she is an elderly woman who can barely manage to look out for her own orphaned grandchildren. This case was referred to social welfare for further investigation.

Also, in the past one year at least two cases of parents attempting to sell their children have come out in the media. In the Serenje case, the father has since been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

*"I heard of a case where a child was born out of wedlock and was staying with the mother in Serenje until a father took him so that he can be staying with him. Later the father wanted to sell his son to a businessman who had a shop in exchange with goods because of poverty. The businessman was scared and had to inform the police officers who one of them had to disguise himself as one of the shop attendants. On that fateful day the father took his son to the shop owner hoping he could sell his child. Not knowing that the police officers were alerted this man was later convicted and was arrested and jailed for 20 years. It happened in 2005."*

### Father jailed for selling son

A 43-YEAR-OLD Serenje man has been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment with hard labour for attempting to sell his 10-year-old son last year. The man, Christopher Malama, was arrested in March 2006 when he tried to sell his son for K850, 000 to a local businessman. Malama, a farmer, appeared before Kabwe High Court judge, Reuben Mwape, yesterday.

He was committed to the High Court by the subordinate court in Serenje for the offence of selling or trafficking in children contrary to section 143 of the Penal Code, Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia.

Particulars of the offence were that between March 13 and 17, 2006, in Serenje, Malama did traffic in Boyd Malama (his son) by way of selling him to a local businessman. Malama offered his son for sale at K850,000 cash or goods worth that amount.

Judge Mwape said Malama would serve the sentence effective March 21, 2006, when he was arrested. Judge Mwape said he had heard Malama's mitigation, which was why he gave a more lenient sentence.

The Daily Mail (date unknown)

<sup>37</sup> It should be noted that children involved in commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking etc are also treated as commodities, as they are often bought and sold.

### **Mpulungu man arrested for child trafficking**

By A Correspondent. Police in Mpulungu District in Northern Province have arrested a man and charged him with child trafficking. Northern Province Division Acting Police Chief, Lemmy Kajoba, confirmed the development to Mano News yesterday. The suspect is a resident of Kasasa Village in Chief Tafuna's area in Mpulungu.

Mr Kajoba said Mr Sikazwe went to a Mpulungu businessman, last Friday around 10.00 hours to sell his one year and nine months daughter at a cost of K20 million. Mr Kajoba said that the businessman told police that he had earlier arranged to buy the girl at K20 million.

The businessman informed police of the conspiracy and later traced the man and arrested him when he was trying to get the purchase price from the businessman. Mr Kajoba said the suspect would appear in court — Mano News

Times of Zambia: Wednesday, June 21, 2006

### **Missing children**

In most of the provinces stories of missing children were narrated by research participants. Some of these children have even been taken out of the country and their parents have not heard anything from them for years. Many of these parents/guardians are too poor to do anything about finding them.

In Chiyanga, Nakonde, some children were reported to be missing. Efforts to find them were made and they were reunited with their families. It could not, however, be established whether the children were victims of trafficking or had been kidnapped.

On the Copperbelt some cases of children who had gone missing were mentioned during the discussions. In at least two cases, family members reported the matter to the police, but they said they did not receive any assistance. In one case a family which had lost a child did not do anything about it because they did not know who to approach for help.

### **Child labour**

Often children below 18 years of age are expected to help out with daily chores at home or in the family gardens and farms as this is considered training for their future. Since Luapula Province is predominantly rural, this was mentioned by community leaders, adult community members, as well as a few of the children themselves.

Lucas is a 15 year old boy living in Chirundu. He is a double orphan and is unable to attend school. He was looked after by a distant relative who forced him to work in the fields: "I wasn't allowed to go to school and was not working for anything in terms of money. I was just working for my food". Lucas saw the murder of his elder brother, and was due to be killed by the same mob, when he was rescued by police officer. However, the police officer introduced Lucas to a clearing agent, who employed him to sell cold drinks at the border post. Lucas was not paid for two years, but accepts this because he is still under 'police protection'. After two years his employer left and Lucas now works for a woman selling cold drinks. She does not pay him. Lucas says "from the time I was born I have never experienced love, all what I know is pain, hatred, insults, mockery. No one at any time in this earth have ever appreciated me. I work for

nothing. I sweat for a piece of bread, I have no parents, so there's nothing good or bad that I can explain to you". "I was working as a servant selling drinks for Mrs X".

Interviews from key informants from the community as well as focus group discussions with children revealed that there were many cases of child labour. One prominent traditional leader told the researchers that they should learn to define child labour within the African context. He said children in Africa, especially in the rural areas, needed to know survival skills like fishing, which should be taught when one was still young. Other respondents echoed the same opinion adding that children also needed to help out at home doing various chores. Some of the children also agreed that they needed to help out in their homes. Others however, thought they were overused and preferred to just go to school and play. Since this is considered culturally acceptable, these types of cases are not reported to the Victim Support Unit.

### **Movements of children from urban areas to rural areas for school**

There were cases where children were taken from Kitwe to Mansa for school. This was unusual because there are more and better schools in the urban areas than in rural areas. One possible explanation is that most of these children were orphans and had to be looked after by grandparents who for the most part lived in rural areas. When they got to these rural areas, they were exposed to a different culture where a child was expected to work and they felt mistreated.

### **Migrant labour**

Research participants indicated that there was a common practice in Nakonde for children between the ages of 12 and 17 to migrate to Tanzania (Mbeya) for work as plantation workers or as domestic servants. However, there was little information on what conditions the children worked in or how they were treated. The practice was so common that parents / guardians did not seem to see anything wrong with it. The limited employment opportunities in Nakonde triggered the movement of children to Tanzania for wage labour. Some children were reported to have been gone for a long time, while others went for short periods. Yet others would return to Zambia and go back to Tanzania again. It is not clear from the interviews whether the children are moved by a third party to work on plantations or as domestic workers or how they find jobs in Tanzania. However, the fact of being away from parental care in another country places them at high risk of being trafficked at the destination point.

## **3.11 Current practices addressing child trafficking**

### **3.11.1 Re-integration**

Children returned home in various ways. In the Central Province it was observed that in most cases, children went back to their parents by themselves after realising that the promised good life did not exist after all. In other cases, trafficked children were collected by their parents or friends of the family, as indicated in the case of Progress who was trafficked to work in a shop in Lubumbashi. In the case of Maria who was taken to Tanzania, her mother went to fetch her. Law enforcement agents were said to be involved in the case of the two Zambian girls who were taken to Ireland.

It was noted that law enforcement agencies such as the police and immigration were hardly involved in the process of children returning home. One reason cited was inadequate training in child trafficking provided to law enforcement officers.

Most children who returned home after being trafficked were not easily integrated in society. Some research participants interviewed felt that there was a lot of stigma attached to children who had been trafficked. They stated that many children were criticised and blamed. In Southern Province, for example, it was thought that generally, formerly trafficked children were rarely welcomed into society. Respondents felt that they were treated negatively and not easily included into community activities. The lack of rehabilitation programmes and general sensitisation could have led to this stigma.

Many parents of formerly trafficked children who had returned reported that they had not made any efforts to re-integrate their children into society. One parent in Kapiri Mposhi said she had not sought any help because “*we didn’t know where to go for help*”. One parent on the Copperbelt approached a social welfare officer for help to enable a formerly trafficked child go back to school. However, some children did not report stigma on their return, and in fact their parents were blamed for the child’s ordeal. In the case of Juliet when she got home “*people sympathised with her and blamed her mother for sending her away*”.

Many participants pointed out that organisations such as the Social Welfare Department, Victim Support Unit and NGOs dealing with issues of child trafficking have no institutional homes or temporary shelter to keep trafficked children. Whilst this demonstrates an understanding of what measures should be instituted, since there are a few facilities that can take care of trafficked children, it also shows a lack of awareness of these provisions.

### **3.11.2 Prevention, protection and rehabilitation**

From the information given by key informants in some districts, there are a number of prevention activities being undertaken. Most of these focus on awareness raising campaigns targeted at school-going children and parents. An NGO in Lusaka said: “we sensitise the public through media campaigns and mobile TV shows”. A professional in Lusaka indicated that sensitisation is done in some children centres (safe homes, transit homes and orphanages). The Drug Enforcement Commission also reported that they had a unit that deals with sensitisation of their staff and other professionals reported that they had received training on trafficking. However, one informant called for the intensification of education on child trafficking.

Most of the professionals talked to were of the view that there are inadequate laws to protect children or prosecute traffickers. In fact, some of them categorically stated that there is no law against child trafficking. This is a misconception as a law on child trafficking does exist although it has a major limitation in that child trafficking is not clearly defined.

*“In Victim Support, we have not really put it as a priority because we have never really defined it and there are no laws about it so you can’t charge anyone with any case when found”.*’

Despite the limitations in the law against child trafficking, some law enforcement officers have been working to prevent trafficking. This includes trying to protect children who could be victims of child trafficking by using appropriate laws that they can use to secure a conviction. However, in general community members, police, immigration and social welfare officers had limited or no knowledge of the law on trafficking. Immigration key informants repeatedly stated that they did not have any special procedures for dealing with trafficking cases, resulting in any suspected cases being referred to Lusaka for further investigations. It was recommended that Parliament pass laws that better protect children from trafficking.

In relation to protecting children who are either in the process of being trafficked, or have been trafficked, it was generally felt that there were few measures in place. Some professionals revealed that when a child is found without genuine papers for living in Zambia, the child is arrested and handed over to the immigration officers. In cross border trafficking, immigration officers are often the first contact trafficked children have with authorities. One informant, however, explained that although he had never encountered a case of a child who had been trafficked without legal papers across borders, such a child would be put into prison with adult offenders as there are no facilities to accommodate such cases.

*“In terms of deportation we have not had any incidence. If we caught one, he would be put in prison. We do not keep funds at our office so we cannot deport anyone. If we had five or so children . . . we do not have facilities hence they can only be taken to prison. . . If government had institutions where they could be kept, we could take them there – both adults and children are treated the same way”.*

However, another professional explained that one of the steps the department he works for has taken is to interview children and adults separately in cases where they suspect an irregular act.

*“As immigration officers we have become more cautious when checking documents- whether they have been tampered with to safeguard the victim . . . measures we have put in place are that we are asking guest house owners to let us know if they have foreigners. But no case has been reported so far, probably for fear of losing business”.*

While it was stated that some measures were being brought in to try and identify traffickers, it was noted that this was ad hoc and there were no proper identification processes used by the police, immigration and the social welfare officers. Key informants interviewed felt that children were identified as trafficked through reports from the community members and NGOs. Border points were reported to allow anyone to pass, even when they lacked proper travel documentation. Respondents felt that immigration officers were not strict at the border posts and were aware of routes that were used illegally. In some cases, research participants reported that immigration was not managed adequately as border posts, such as Kanyala Border Post in Nakonde, is reported to be unmanned and dilapidated.

It is clear from the outcome of the research that there are no specialised services aimed at trafficked children, as the key informants only mentioned the general measures for the protection of children. This is undertaken by agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare who operate transit homes and orphanages that have traditionally dealt with

issues of child vulnerability. An officer from the Department of Social Welfare indicated that they had a rehabilitation programme involving counselling sessions. While these services are not aimed at trafficked children, they show that there is some level of infrastructure that could be utilised for such children. Furthermore, research participants indicated that some NGOs are involved in providing help to trafficked children, but these work in isolation.

When foreign children are found trafficked into Zambia, immigration officers stated that they hand them over to the International Organisation for Immigration (IOM) for repatriation. However, in one high profile trafficking case repatriation was carried out after children had been subjected to harsh treatment by law enforcement officers. In this case, three Afghan children were stopped leaving Lusaka Airport because they were travelling with fake documents. It transpired that a Zambian and Pakistani had brought them into Zambia and intended to take them to either the UK or United States. Once stopped by immigration, the children were held in prison for a number of days before it was established that they were victims of trafficking. The law enforcement agencies did not, as a first step, seek to establish whether or not the children were victims of trafficking. Yvonne, an earlier case study on page 36, also shows a similar situation, where she was imprisoned after being removed from her possible trafficker.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 Conclusions**

- Trafficking exists in Zambia, it is predominantly internal, and generally involves family and relatives. Due to this relationship, relatives motives are rarely questioned, and families and children assume that they can be trusted.
- There is some evidence to show that Zambia is a destination country, but little information relating to it as a country of transit.
- Children are frequently from poor households and are trafficked mostly for cheap labour, domestic labour, farm work and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Due to gender inequality and cultural factors, girls are more at risk of being trafficked than boys.
- Children often become vulnerable to trafficking because of the death of one or both parents, mistreatment or a drop in household income.
- The high cost of schooling, lack of school places and children's desire for an education all increase their likelihood of agreeing to leave home.
- Low levels of awareness of trafficking amongst professionals, non-professionals, community members and children were found.
- Trafficked children left the situation either independently or with the help of family, once they were aware of the child's predicament.
- Orphans often feel that they have to remain in the exploitative situation as they have no alternative place to stay.
- Transport used is predominantly in the form of trucks, buses, cars, ships, trains and pontoons.
- There are few services available to trafficked children, and those that exist are not widely known about by those working to protect children
- Law enforcement and immigration officers had varying levels of knowledge of trafficking issues, resulting in an ad hoc approach to prevention and protection of children. This situation is exacerbated by weak legislation and low level of training which impacts on enforcement capabilities.
- Extensive and porous borders, unmanned or ill-equipped border posts and the enabling attitude of some immigration officials all facilitate those wishing to pursue illegal activities.

## 4.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the research and a workshop held for research assistants, ILO/IPEC, consultants and members of the Steering Group.

- **Coordination:** There was an apparent general absence of coordination between the organisations concerned with children's issues. Most of the line ministries and several externally funded projects apply different approaches to involving the communities in problem identification, planning, implementation and the monitoring of general development activities. The absence of an effective linkage between the district level and the community in development matters severely weakens the impact of scarce resources deployed both by the Government and NGOs.

There should be, therefore, better coordination among government departments, NGOs and communities. Existing bodies in districts and provinces such as the District/Provincial Development Coordinating Committees and Community/District Child Labour Committees should provide a platform for discussing issues of child trafficking. Further, there should be synergy of resources among all stakeholders at all levels. This will make it possible to build a coalition of stakeholders to help in complementing and reinforcing various efforts to combat trafficking.

- **Sensitisation:** Sensitisation of communities and district officers should be an on-going programme. The media should be involved in the process of sensitisation. Community radio stations and local newspapers can play a major role in raising awareness in the community. The media should highlight the dangers of child trafficking in pubs, airports, churches, mosques, clinics and shopping centres. Additionally, community sensitisation meetings should include issues of birth registration.

There is need to sensitise and raise awareness in the country and highlight the dangers and experiences connected with this practice. Campaigns should be targeted at religious leaders, women's groups and families and the children themselves. The message should be very clear and should denounce the so-called "Better Life Syndrome". This is a hidden problem which should be approached with care.

NGOs have been implementing a wide range of social programmes funded almost exclusively through international aid. The government should take a keen interest in social matters like child trafficking. For example, Plan and UNICEF are currently implementing a programme on child birth registration. The programme is being implemented in Mazabuka, Chibombo, Mansa and Chadiza. This programme needs to be scaled up to other districts in the country. Other NGOs and government departments should participate in this initiative.

- **Capacity Building:** Immigration officers, police officers, social welfare officers and other government departments that have a responsibility for trafficked children need to be trained on human trafficking, including child trafficking. To support the training, resources must be applied to enable the newly trained officers to carry out their work in identifying and better protecting trafficked

children. Additionally, resources need to be made available to enable government departments with access to rehabilitation centres to maintain their upkeep.

Further, all stakeholders need to be trained on child trafficking, i.e. media, NGOs, community leaders. Community capacity strengthening should lead to Residents Development Committees and village headmen being able to keep records of the residents of the communities.

The delivery of child rights education to the communities will have to be reinforced by strong Residents Development Committees and Child Labour Committees. This will entail re-organising or strengthening the already existing committees or formation of committees in areas where they do not exist, so as to make them 'robust' enough to be able to provide services. In the light of a number of community-based organisations operating in an uncoordinated manner, a more co-ordinated approach is required with the establishment of networks of these organisations at community level.

Residents Development Committees will need to be trained in basic facilitation techniques, communication skills, resource mobilisation, gender issues, and community organisation in order for them to function effectively. Once the capacity of the committees has been built, child rights education will be delivered consistently and this will enhance sustainability.

- **Poverty Reduction Programmes:** Programmes and strategies that are aimed at reducing poverty and promoting the economic empowerment of vulnerable groups should be strengthened and scaled up. Poverty reduction and economic empowerment will lead to significant reduction in the crime of child trafficking. Youth skills training and employment creation are also required so that youths are equipped with the vocational skills which will enable them to earn an income. In short, the government must develop a national child protection system aimed at combating the poverty that drives exploitation.
- **Rights Based Programming:** Government departments and NGOs that are involved in children's issues need to do rights based programming so that child rights are at the centre of their programmes. As children are critical to the success of any sensitisation campaign on child trafficking, their involvement at all stages is important. A sensitisation programme can be successful where children are the key facilitators in passing messages to other children and family members. Children's participation needs to be sustained and carried forward to higher levels. Their social groups need to be supported at local levels. This means that organising, advocacy and social mobilisation needs to be carried out.

A number of strategies to enhance children's welfare and participation are recommended:

- Use of schools to facilitate the reduction or elimination of child labour, especially for the girl child, through community sensitisation and an emphasis on child rights during classroom lessons. The children could also be organised so that they are able to monitor cases of child abuse and child labour.

- Promotion of child rights education for children through the use of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and other means. This would require provision of time within the school timetable for such activities, or taking advantage of important events like Youth Day.
- Taking advantage of the *Child to Child Approach* to train teachers and some children as peer educators of their friends. District staff and NGOs could monitor *Child to Child activities*. The activities should be easy enough for children to understand; simple for children to carry out and interesting and funny. Children are capable of caring for other children their own age, or younger than them, influencing family members and spreading messages in their own communities.
- Since a lot of schools have implemented the *Programme for the Advancement of Girls' Education (PAGE)* in the past, future work could build on this experience and support the dissemination of child rights messages to the girl child.
- Promoting recreation facilities for children in schools and communities in order to enhance children's early development. In some communities, all that is available is a football pitch for boys.
- Many schools are exposing children to life skills and this could be utilised to teach children skills of assertiveness and self-confidence so that they are able to talk about issues of trafficking with their parents and guardians and say no to traffickers.
- Improve and strengthen legislation on child trafficking. The current legislation on child trafficking is inadequate as it does not clearly define child trafficking and is not comprehensive in areas of protection or rehabilitation. This means that the conviction of traffickers is left to the sensibilities of the judges. However, the government is currently reviewing the law on trafficking and aims to bring it into line with the UN definition of trafficking. A draft policy document is also being drawn up to raise awareness levels and assist with co-ordinating strategies among the relevant bodies.
- There should be a policy of free education from Grades 1 to 12. The retention of children in school will contribute to a reduction in child trafficking. Border districts like Kazungula should be provided with secondary schools. A firm investment in education and social services together with strengthened child protection, health and justice will assist in the overall protection of children. Parents / guardians should be sensitised on the importance of sending children to school and keeping them in school until they reach Grade 12.
- There is need to protect the young people who manage to break free from the trafficking chain.

- (a) The Ministry of Education should assist with the integration of such children into schools. This calls for sensitisation of parents / guardians and teachers.
- (b) Relevant organisations and ministries should be active in providing skills and vocational training to those not wishing to return to formal education thus helping them to become self-sufficient.
- (c) The Department of Social Welfare needs to build rehabilitation centres and repair any existing ones. Trafficked children should have access to counselling and support for their rehabilitation and confidence building

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