

# UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (UYDEL)

REPORT FOR THE CSEC STUDY FINDINGS  
DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP, LIRA HELD AT GARDEN  
INN ON 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011



**Supported by: Acting For Life/Groupe Developpement**

**COMPILED BY**

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## **AGENDA**

- Opening Prayer
- Welcome Remarks
- Introductions
- CSEC study findings dissemination
- Lay out of the report
- General comments and discussions
- Way Forward
- Closing Remarks

### **MIN 1/2011 OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting started with an opening prayer from a volunteer (one of the participants)

### **MIN 2/2011 WELCOME REMARKS**

Mr. Kasirye Rogers welcomed members and informed them that in the report he and his team were going to present, they had picked out issues directly affecting the Northern region specifically Lira District. This was just a draft document. He informed members that the final document would be sent to the district probation officers at the district who will give feedback.

Mr. Kasirye Rogers requested members to introduce themselves so as to know each other.

### **MIN 3/2011 INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves one by one by name and designation. Mr. Kasirye Rogers then called upon Mr. Mutaawe Rogers to give an overview of the study

### **MIN 4/2011 CSEC STUDY FINDINGS DISSEMINATION**

Mr. Mutaawe Rogers informed members that he was reporting preliminary findings of the study. He gave an overview of the study but also in the long run, went through the issues that pertain to Lira District. He began by telling members that under CSEC, they were looking at 3 areas that is; child trafficking, child prostitution, and child pornography.

To start with the field experience; He reported to the members the following;

- Recruited 20 research assistants who were trained and participated in pre testing of the study tools that had been developed because there is no way any study can be done without these tools
- Data collection tools - Developed four (4) data collection tools
- Research assistants were divided into 4 groups depending on the distribution of the regions and each team had a supervisor to ensure quality of data collected
- Though this is a study done by UYDEL, the organization constituted a technical working group at the MoGLSD and this group is an advisory group. There was need of people who have experience in this field to make comments and give guidance
- Data collection methods used – In-depth interviews, Key Informant interviews, FGDs, Desk review literature, and key observations

- Areas covered - Northern region - Lira and Gulu, Eastern region – Mbale, Busia and Bugiri, Western region - Mbarara and Kasese, and Central region - Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Lyantonde, and Kalangala.
- Data coding, entry and analysis – There was a statistician from UBOs who did this
- Respondents – interviewed 529 children across all the regions though 89 inclined the interview
- Field challenges in data collection – in some areas, research assistants were denied information by CSEC victims and key informants. Older CSWs intercepted some research assistants because they wanted to know why some of the girls were being interviewed. Some of the children were willing to quit commercial sex but no resources put aside to help these children
- Lessons learnt – Building rapport with the study participant is very essential in the study in order for him / her to trust the researcher. Most children interviewed were not well informed about trafficking and this required more explanations to separate normal migration from trafficking. Disclosure of information considered private or concerning bed room matters is difficult because of cultural issues. There is a lot of relapse among children; a lot of entry and exit.

### **General study findings**

Mr. Mutaawe Rogers presented the general highlights of the study findings which included the following.

- Uganda is a source, transit and destination country for trafficking
- Trafficking internally for sexual exploitation and forced labour
- Number of children in CSEC estimated to have increased to 18,000 children
- Forced labour in pornography against children’s will coupled with deception
- Children in bonded labour and in prostitution were identified (limited movement, deduction of wages and use of witch craft)
- Children have psychosocial trauma tendencies
- Spontaneous violence, beating of children and threats
- Gross violation and extreme abuse
- CSEC thrives where there is extreme violation of law and poor or no enforcement at all in all places visited.
- Ministry of Trade and Tourism to be involved on board.
- Children are ignorant and vulnerable to demand their rights.
- Alcohol and drug abuse is a major factor in terms of facilitating the vice.
- There are few NGOs /players working on CSEC in particular.
- Laws are largely un enforced.
- Limited resource flow commitments and a small proportion reaches actual target groups.

He then presented the highlights of the study findings in Lira District.

## **Lira District**

### **Child trafficking**

- On a smaller scale, receive children who are trafficked from other areas like Mbale, Soroti, Gulu, Pader, Kitgum and Lango sub-regions even from Kampala, Masindi, Moroto, Karamoja, Jinja, Masindi, Hoima, Mbale, Kibale, and Iganga.
- These children are brought in to meet the demands of work or sexual exploitation
- Others are brought by friends and bus drivers with promises of a better life and education.
- Traffickers prefer children between 12 to 15 years

### **Child Prostitution**

- Child prostitution is on the increase in Lira district with an estimated 50 children involved in prostitution commonly practiced in bars, restaurants and discotheques.
- During the day, child prostitutes engage in informal jobs like airtime selling, hotel attendance, phone booth operators, selling bananas and other items, and street vending.
- Prostitution has exposed these children to HIV/AIDS infections, unwanted pregnancies, abortions, homosexuality tendencies among the street children and sometimes deaths.

### **Child Pornography**

- The majority of people do not understand what pornography is and its implication especially in rural areas.
- The common forms are watching blue movies in video halls, and exposure to print media information in tabloid newspapers such as Red Pepper, and Onion.
- Children are exposed to pornography by their fellow peers and video hall operators and this has resulted in decadent morals, indiscipline, and early sexual exposure.

### **Hot spots for CSEC**

- Baza Street area
- Blue corner
- Teso bar
- Ajjuma
- 24/7 pub and K. zone
- Kampala road
- Kitgum stage
- Jinja camp
- labour line
- Ojuina
- Corner bar
- Oura Bar
- Central park

### **Factors responsible for CSEC in the region**

- Household poverty
- Emergency of child headed families

- Availability if ready demand for prostitutes
- Lira is an economic hub where business people converge for trade; even the army and police who work in Anti – Stock safety Units

### **Interventions to address CSEC**

- Child Restoration Outreach
- War Child Holland
- Child Protection Unit-Lira Police
- Probation Officer-Lira

### **Emerging Issues**

- Poor records documentation of children served
- High possibility of NGOs working on the same clients
- Children in prostitution are not effectively reached partly due to lack of expertise, demands, hidden population and lack of resources to recruit staff

He then gave the recommendations, conclusions and suggested areas for further research which they had come up with

### **Recommendations**

- Child victims and psycho social support programs.
- Prevention and advocacy strategy.
- Government intervention.
- Capacity building activities for civil society, government and private sector.
- Research and building knowledge base.
- Develop teaching modules and build capacity of universities and tertiary teaching staff.
- Ministry of Trade and Tourism needs to be brought on board
- Victim withdrawal, rehabilitation and integration.
- Training of child rights advocates.
- Strengthen national networks and community coalitions against CSEC.
- Strengthen social protection and family systems.

### **Conclusions**

- Limited and coordinated efforts among actors.
- Vulnerability of CSEC shall prevail unless important things like awareness, house hold poverty and law enforcement are addressed.

### **Further Research**

- How districts who set up bi – laws have managed to work
- Follow up children withdrawn from CSEC



*Mr. Kasirye making a presentation during the workshop*

## **MIN 5/2011 LAY OUT OF THE REPORT**

Mr. Kasirye Rogers passed through the detailed report chapter by chapter explaining to the members what each chapter was all about and what was entailed under.

Chapter one is on the introduction and background to the study. It includes the background to the study, study goal, and specific objectives which are stated clearly.

Chapter 2 - Methodology; this includes the study design, study population, sampling method, scope of the study (study areas and study population), data collection methods, data analysis and management, induction of research assistants, ethical considerations, challenges faced during the study, and lessons learnt during the study interviews

Chapter 3- Literature review; this clearly shows the general overview of CSEC

Chapter 4 - The extent of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Uganda; this includes the socio demographic characteristics of children, trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation, magnitude of commercial sexual exploitation of children, risky behaviors in CSEC, exiting or quitting of commercial sexual activities and pornography

Chapter 5 – Regional representation of CSEC and responses in the districts of study. This chapter presents the regional representation of CSEC by study districts in Uganda. It includes the Central region, Northern region, Eastern region and Western region

Chapter 6 presents the National responses and other efforts to address CSEC. It looks at government interventions (Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Council for Children (NCC), Training in high institutions and law enforcement agencies), Interventions by international organizations, coordination and networking among stake holders, parent related interventions, media efforts and faith based interventions which have been very strong in terms of addressing pornography.

Chapter 7 – Legal, policy and resource flow commitments; this looks at the legal frame work which includes the International Instruments ratified and the National legislations, the policy

frame works in place which include the National OVC Policy, Universal primary and secondary education policy, National Child Labor policy, National Action Plan on CSEC, and the resource flow commitments towards CSEC. This chapter also highlights gaps in the legal and policy framework for addressing CSEC.

Chapter 8 gives the Conclusions and recommendations of the report.



*Group photo of the participants*

## **MIN 6/2011 GENERAL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

These were the comments /reactions from the participants that needed to be taken care of.

- There are so many issues concerning child abuse in Mukono and Iganga districts according to the media and press and yet the study did not cover these districts
- Quotations should be written in different colours e.g. blue, red etc so as to motivate the person to read and also make the document user friendly
- Put domestic violence in the major factors and elaborate it. The biggest problem is domestic violence and if possible, it should have a section on its own
- CRO tried to do something on CSEC and found out that domestic violence and child neglect by both biological parents and care givers were some of the major factors. Among other factors was; broken cultural values. Long ago, cultures were very much intact and such cases were rare compared to now
- Under institutions providing support to children involved in CSEC, add cultural leaders. Most of these vices go straight to culture.
- Most of the interventions are focusing on the victims but clients, customers and places where children are being used should be dealt with
- Most women are not helped especially when they go to report their problems. Men usually come and bribe the police and thus the police being on the side of the accusers. That is why now days, women are killing men because when they report, they are not being helped
- Why the so many cases now days?

- ✓ Lack of knowledge – People flood at the police but they do not know where to go
- ✓ Lack of follow ups
- Those in police handling children matters should be trained on handling children matters
- People long ago feared the police even just seeing them but now if you tell someone that I am taking you to police, him / her just laughs. Actually, the person is encouraged. Police are being corrupted with money
- Stakeholders are doing things in different directions. There is need to have well coordinated efforts among NGOs, cultural leaders, police etc
- The media e.g. during promotions, shows, advertisements etc sometimes use young girls to dance on stage, promote their products etc. How can one come in to help when these people have licenses?

## **MIN 7/2011 WAY FORWARD**

Participants suggested the following to be done in Lira to address the problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Parents / guardians should be strict on children.
- Look at the way people used to behave in the past and how they behave today. There is need to compare and bring out the good things the people of long ago used to do so as to apply them (Compare P.O Box and dot.com)
- A consortium of organizations within Lira district involving stakeholders e.g. police, cultural leaders, religious leaders etc coming together with holistic views /ideas on how to combat the CSEC problem
- Much efforts should be at the grass roots
- In the past, there were sayings that would scare children not to do things especially in their different cultures e.g. *“do not sit on a grinding stone, your uncle will die”* and yet in actual sense, he would not die. These should continue
- Bar / lodge / restaurant owners etc are also parents. They should be targeted on this problem of CSEC. May be the labour officers should come in and tell them of how they are using children of under age
- Very many organizations are making good reports but implementation is zero. For UYDEL, after the report has been published, they should look for donors for funds to make sure the report is disseminated on ground in terms of doing activities towards helping children e.g. vocational skills training
- Deal with moral degeneration in our communities. Emphasis should be on men. Religious and cultural leaders should be brought on board
- Sensitisation of the grass root people. People down miss the good information and yet this is where the victims come from
- Integrate the lower education systems e.g. primary and secondary school and bring teachers together, tell them to continuously inform children about the dangers of CSEC
- Cultural beliefs and cultural institutions should be brought on board
- Proper networking to help combat the problem
- Continuous meetings. “Let us not stop on this one we have done,” said one participant.
- Politicians / policy makers should make good morals in the society
- Strong laws on substance and drug abuse
- Rights should be hand in hand with responsibilities



- Involve youth in activities targeting them

### **MIN 8/2011 CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Kasirye Rogers called upon Ms. Berna from the Labour office to say a few words.

Ms. Berna from the Labour office thanked UYDEL for conducting the study and have the results disseminated. The findings were relevant and realistic to the situations in Lira.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm and members departed at will after lunch.