

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT RECOGNIZES, PROMOTES AND PROTECTS CHILDREN'S RIGHTS THROUGH PROMOTION OF RESILIENCE AND CHILD FRIENDLY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICTS OF KAMPALA, MUKONO AND KALANGALA

IMPLEMENTED BY:

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ANPPCAN	Africa Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect
CBCPP	Capacity Building for Child Protection Project
CBOs	Community Based Organizations.
CFPU	Child and Family Protection Unit
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CLC	Child Link Clubs
CPP	Child Protection Project
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IEC	Information Education and Communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
PSG	Parent Support Group
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexual Transmitted Infections
SW	Social Worker
ULRC	Uganda Law Reform Commission
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UYDEL	Uganda Youth Development Link

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the evaluation of the Child Protection Project. This project has been implemented by Uganda Youth development Link (UYDEL) with financial support from OAK Foundation and in collaboration with the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) of the Uganda Police Force. The study employed predominantly qualitative techniques in the collection, analysis and presentation of the study findings. It has however made use of descriptive statistics from secondary sources. Information was collected from children and from a wide range of participants including: UYDEL staff, police officers from the CFPU, opinion leaders, members of parent support groups, Local Council Officials, patrons of child link clubs, artisans, children participating in apprenticeship and children participating in Child Link Clubs. Analysis of data made use of thematic, case study, content and interpretative analysis for qualitative data.

Key evaluation Findings

The evaluation team revealed that commendable efforts were made by UYDEL in building the capacity of law enforcement officers on child rights and child protection issues. Over 60 police and law enforcement officers have been trained in child friendly approaches of handling child abuse cases, and equipped with requisite skills and knowledge on their role in child protection and promotion of resilience among abused children. However, there is still a need to build the capacity of the CFPU in counseling and rehabilitation of victims of sexual abuse and other children in conflict with the law. Similarly; the transfer of trained police officers to other areas outside the project area is a threat to the sustainability and disrupts that continuity of the project. Subsequent interventions should design mechanism to ensure police officers that are brought to the project areas to replace those that have been transferred are also trained and equipped with requisite skills in child friendly approaches of child protection. This will ensure continuity.

Discussions revealed that support programs for abused children or children at the risk of abuse (street girls, working girls, HIV/AIDS orphans) through provision of access to life skills, and apprenticeship and skills training have been at the heart of UYDEL intervention. The majority of the children are trained at different UYDEL centers, while others are trained by local artisans within their communities. Upon completion of training, children are given start up kits depending on the trade in which training is provided.

Through life and vocational skills training, children are equipped with employable skills and empowered to start their own small scale enterprises to earn incomes in safer ways. On the other hand, discussions revealed nearly 123 children have benefited from the street smart life planning skills workshops aimed at promoting resilience.

Capacity building trainings were carried out in three districts for different duty bearer in an effort to create a protective environment where the rights of children are recognized and protected. These included teachers, parents, local leaders, children, religious and opinion leaders and representatives of CBOs/NGOs committed to promoting the welfare of children. Building the capacity of duty bearers has contributed to the building of a social protection network that protects children from abuse and neglect.

The evaluation also revealed that 19 Parent Support Groups (PSGs) were strengthened in the three project districts. Under this initiative PSGs work with other duty bearers to augment child protection efforts and support families with child protection problems. This has proved to be an important approach to encouraging open discussion about child protection and child sexual abuse issues within the communities. Because of the PSGs proximity to communities, members are in position to identify and report cases of child abuse or provide appropriate counseling and referral for abused children and their families.

UYDEL in addition to training teachers in child rights and child protection issues facilitated the formation of Child Link Clubs in different schools in the three project districts. Overall, 24 Child link clubs- 10 in Kampala, 10 in Mukono and 4 in Kalangala have been formed in the different schools. These clubs have also been utilized by UYDEL as an avenue to teach school going children about child rights and child protection issues. This is an important recognition that, children are not just passive recipients of protection and other services, but active persons of their rights and should participate in activities that affect them in their communities.

Discussions with the project management team revealed that different IEC materials were produced and disseminated to sensitize communities about child sexual abuse and exploitation and protection of children in general. These included; 1,500 brochures on “the truth about Child Sexual Abuse” and 2,857 posters with messages “WATCH OUT, anybody can sexually abuse you and severe beating is harmful to a child’s life”. The messages were readable and easy to comprehend. This has contributed to raising awareness in communities about Child Sexual Abuse (CSA).

As part of the intervention, one qualified Social Worker was attached to each of the three districts where the project was implemented. The Social Worker (SW) works closely with Child and Family Protection Unit under the Police, Parent Support Groups, local leaders and the community to provide children in need with counseling to enable them recover from adverse experience (of sexual abuse), and to help build a caring and protective environment for them. Children targeted included those in socially, psychologically or emotionally ‘at risk’ situations, including in family or household settings.

Discussions during the evaluation revealed that the project interventions were relevant to the manifest and latent needs of the target districts as well as the situation being addressed. The child protection interventions by UYDEL were largely underpinned by working in close collaboration with all the duty bearers and stakeholders, including children themselves and communities. Underlying this design and approach was the need to forge alliances, strengthen community social protection networks and ensure sound linkages and synergy with all partners to enhance the protection of affected children and address the issues of child sexual abuse collaboratively.

The achievements of the project owe, in part, to the collaboration with the Uganda police force, expertise of the project staff and determinedly strong networking. The project collaborated with a number of agencies in child protection issues through the Uganda Child Rights NGO network (UCRNN). The project team also worked with the probation officers in the three districts during community education seminars as well as in referral and counselling of victims. This is a good practice and should be encouraged. Collaboration of this nature encourages sharing of experiences, exchanging ideas and increases synergy. It is through this collaborative spirit that, UYDEL wrote a memorandum of understanding with Uganda police. Working with the police accorded the Project a degree of legitimacy and helped in bridging the gap between the police and the communities.

Notwithstanding, the project interventions were beset by a number of challenges, among other, the continued transfer of trained police officer to other areas outside the project; lack of Victim Support Units/Centres (VSU) where sexually abused children and other children faced with abuse of different forms could be supported and rehabilitated; glaring gaps in the provision of psychosocial services owing to inadequate number of Social Workers and local capacity of the CFPU to offer such services; and the fact that victims of sexual abuse cannot afford the money required for medical examination still exist. The later means that some cases cannot be followed up for: justice; reconciliation and rehabilitation. In terms of

financial sustainability, it is evident that at present Child link clubs, just like PSGs cannot sustain their own operations.

BASED ON THE EVALUATION FINDINGS THERE IS NEED TO:

Consolidate and deepen sensitization and awareness creation on child protection at local community levels. UYDEL should make an effort to intensify community education and awareness raising activities on child abuse especially in the remote areas. Intensive efforts are also required in slum areas of Kampala. In this respect the CFPU can be facilitated to carry out more sensitization trainings on child rights and abuse in deeply remote areas like Kome Island in Mukono and the numerous (distant) Islands of Kalangala¹. Parents urgently need to be sensitized to enable them appreciate the need for safe guarding and protection of children from abuse.

Capacity building initiatives in child protections need to be expanded to bring on board other duty bearer and agencies providing services to victims of child sexual abuse. These may include staff of justice agencies, District Probation and Welfare Officers (DPWO) and key government departments and CSOs working for and with children. This is because sustainability in the area of child protection requires concerted efforts of different agencies, duty bearers and organizations offering varied services to abused children. In addition, a lot more is still needed to be done to change of attitude among various actors including magistrates towards the rights of children, and improving the working relations between the FPU and CID offices of the police among others.

The PSGs approach has been instrumental in increasing awareness on the rights of the child, child abuse, and child protection at the grass root level and challenge parents to report cases of child abuse. There is however need to further build the capacity of PSGs in child protection issues, especially in counseling skills such that they can be able to offer psychosocial support to victims of sexual abuse at a local level. UYDEL, in subsequent interventions should consider facilitating both the PSGs and Child Link Clubs to start Income Generating Activities (IGAs) such as poultry farming to enable them get funds to expand their activities.

There is need for UYDEL to facilitate the establishment of Victim Support Units (VCU) at different police centers. This will prevent situations where children are bundled with criminals and offenders in cells, which in itself is an abuse. . This can be done with support and in collaboration with institutions involved in child protection such as Save the Children in Uganda, African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect (APPCAN), Hope After Rape (HAR) among others. Refresher courses are also needed for Police Officers to keep them abreast with the current child protection and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) issues as well as how to carry out their roles in the communities and handling of cases in child friendly approaches. The capacity of the CFPU also needs to be further built especially in counseling and rehabilitation of victims of sexual abuse.

Efforts should be made to scale up the production and distribution of these IEC materials in the communities being targeted and displayed in public places where people are likely to converge like churches, public notice boards, schools, etc.

¹ Being a fishing community, Kalangala district presents a special challenge. With low literacy levels, high poverty levels; and remoteness, child (sexual) abuse is rampant yet child protection services are scattered and limited.

The approach of vocational skills training is commendable. Nonetheless, efforts should be made to scale up this program so that more abused children and/or children at risk of abuse are taken care of. The skills training component can be also strengthened by enforcing a strict code of rules and regulations for the trainees to follow while at the different centers. This will ensure discipline among the trainees. UYDEL should also consider expanding the training period for some trades.

The manner in which clubs in schools are introduced matters in terms of eliciting support from the school administration. There is also need to encourage positive interaction between the school administration and Child Link Clubs. This requires UYDEL to organize more sensitization workshops with teachers in schools where these clubs operate. Alternatively, more teachers from a single school should be trained in facilitation of the club in order to create a pool of potential club facilitators. Ownership of the clubs by the schools is more likely to ensure long-term sustainability of the clubs than is the case at the moment. Resource mobilization can also be an integral part of improving the impact of the clubs.

The evaluation showed that the Social Workers (one in each of the three districts) are overwhelmed by the exceedingly huge volume of child protection and Child Sexual abuse cases reported in their respective districts. Subsequent interventions should consider bringing more Social Workers on board. Alternatively, the project should identify, train and support volunteer counselors to offer psychosocial support to child victims to enable them recover from adverse experience (of sexual abuse).

All child protection interventions should be strengthened and scaled up in Kalangala. The project team should strengthen its grip on the interventions in Kalangala through constant supervision and participatory feedback mechanisms since the islands are wide apart.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings from the evaluation of the Capacity Building for Child Protection Project implemented between December 2006 and November 2007. The project primarily targeted the building of capacity of police and other law enforcement officers in effective handling of child protection matters, and care rehabilitation of sexually abused and exploited children. At the same time, it prioritized empowering abused and children at risk of abuse through provision of apprenticeship and life skills training; and empowerment of communities, children, duty bearer, and leaders at different levels to protect and safeguard children from abuse and exploitation through education and sensitization activities. Following the implementation of the project since 2006, which itself was a progression of the initial interventions (pilot phase 2004-2005); it became imperative to assess the impact of interventions undertaken so far since last year in respect of building the capacity of the police and other duty bearers in the protection and rehabilitation of sexually abused children in Mukono, Kampala and Kalangala Districts. Based on the evaluation findings

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

The project on Capacity Building for Child Protection Project was conceived against a background informed by empirical evidence. Available literature attests the reality of child sexual abuse in the Ugandan society and in the implementation districts in particular. The situational analyses on child abuse conducted by ANPPCAN over the years and police records all indicate that child sexual abuse is the most widely reported form of child abuse. ANPPCAN's situational analysis of child abuse in Uganda for the period 1986-1996 reported that sexual abuse accounted for 42% of all the reported cases of abuse. Of this, defilement accounted for the highest, recorded at 37%. Similarly, annual police reports of 2002 and 2003 covering all the districts of Uganda indicate that 6398 and 7664 cases of child abuse were reported respectively. The reports show that the great majority of child victims are girls (85.7%) and the commonest offence is defilement, which is 76.6% of the total crimes committed against children.

In 2003, an analysis of 11,165 cases of child abuse shows that sexual abuse was the most common form of abuse accounting for 65%. Sexual abuse mainly took the form of defilement, although there are cases of indecent assault. Majority (82%) of the child abuse victims were girls compared to 16% boys. In 2004, data collected on 16,800 put the number of sexually abused children to 13,929 (83%). The most recent situational analysis which presents 7844 child abuse cases recorded in 2005 at various sources also further affirms child sexual abuse as the most common form of abuse accounting for 81% (ANPPCAN, 2006). Nyonyintono and Yiga (1994) in their analysis of Newspapers found that sexual abuse of children is the most common form of child abuse accounting for 42.3%. Walakira (2001), in a study done in Kawempe Division, found that over 500 children below the age of 18 were being sexually exploited.

In a study by Naker (2005), 76% of all the children consulted in the study had experienced sexual violence including being touched, receiving unwanted attention, exposure to adults having sex or being sexual, being forced to touch adults in sexual ways or being forced to have sex. CFPU records also show that child sexual abuse is a leading form of abuse, perpetuated mainly by family and close members of the community to the child, while physical abuse (beating, burning, cutting etc) is steadily increasing.

Evidence available indicates that the perpetrators of sexual violence are members of the community who by law have a duty to care for and protect the children. In the study by Action Aid International Uganda (1994), the main perpetrators are: parents and relatives (44.1% of responses), community members including

neighbors, business people such as taxi-cyclists locally known in Uganda as "boda-boda", motor vehicle taxi operators, shopkeepers (31.9% of the responses), teachers (17.3% of responses), strangers (7.3% of responses), fellow pupils (3.2% of responses). Other perpetrators include technocrats, government personnel, plantation owners, rebels, and stepmothers. The findings by Action Aid (2004) on perpetrators agree with those of other studies such as those done by Hope after Rape in Kampala and Mukono districts (British Council Uganda, 2002). Most of the abuse is continuous and involves more than one incident. In most cases the parents do not understand the seriousness of abuse and therefore do not help the child to address the problem.

The available literature also indicates that cases of child prostitution are increasing in Uganda. Two reasons for child prostitution in Uganda are identified namely prostitution for survival and for commercial purposes. In the former, children engage in prostitution with the sole aim of meeting basic needs like food and shelter while in the latter cases the primary aim is financial gain (Walakira, 2002). Regardless of the reasons by children for engaging in prostitution, it is an indication of a major form of violence meted out against children by society. Moreover the literature shows that it is not always easy to draw a line between children involved in commercial sex exploitation because of their situation and those who are abused by adults (ILO, MoGLSD, 2004). The literature also shows that many of the children who engage in prostitution are those who live in child headed families, single parent families or away from their parents. In the ILO/IPEC, MoGLSD study (2004) 70% of the children engaged in prostitution did not live with their parents while 14% lived with only their mothers.

On the other hand, children are being exposed to sexually explicit materials that soil their minds. The effects find their expression in children's deviant sexual behaviour. As a result, many have developed a perverted view of sex and sexuality and many are involved in defilement and rape cases. Child sexual abuse has negative and far-reaching physical, psychological, and social effects on the growth, development, and well being of the affected children. The child loses its childhood, its dignity and often its future. Sexual abuse stifles opportunities for human capital development of children (Walakira 2002, ILO 2002, Save the Children Fund 2002, Wakheya, *et al* 2002, Kinyanda 2001). It is noted that girls experience health hazards including violence and abuse, crude abortions and STD infections including HIV/AIDS.

The factors to explain the phenomenon of sexual violence against children in the Ugandan context can be categorized into familial, social, economic, cultural, political or a combination of the above. The most common factors include; orphan hood, increasing poverty, lack of access to school, the growing entertainment industry including phonography, single parenthood, broken families, sexual promiscuity, discrimination of women, rural urban migration, low cultural position accorded to the girl child, wars and calamities (World Bank 1993, UNICEF 1989, Gawayya 1999, Kasirye 2002 and Walakira 2002).

The weak legal and policy environment in Uganda contributes directly and indirectly to sexual violence against children. Although the legislative regime against sexual abuse appears to be in place, the implementation of the existing laws is ineffective. According to the ULRC (2000), despite the stringent laws on rape, defilement and related sexual offences, there is an apparent failure of the laws to adequately prevent the commission of the offences.

Serwadda (2000) notes that while many cases are handed over to the authorities, most cases were not adequately handled. Children who are sexually abused often don't receive justice because relatives especially the male relatives are overtaken by the desire for money and cases are thus settled for petty forms of compensation. Many times the local authorities and police were ill informed, powerless or opportunistic and

mishandle the cases. Nyonyintono and Yiga (1994), also note that the legal process in itself is cumbersome and intimidating due to the complicated procedures for preserving evidence and the process of law and redress. Victims often lost heart and opted to settle out of court.

In addition the manner in which evidence is addressed also intimidates the children especially with the issue of cross-examination. A situation analysis conducted by Hope after Rape in Kampala district 1999- 2000 indicated that in spite of defilement being highly reported, of 211 cases reported to the police, only 68 are taken to court. The reasons for this are the lack of follow up by the victims, out of court settlements and insufficient evidence. The ULRC (2000) identified an upsurge in violence and aggression, ignorance of the law, procedures for gathering evidence, conflict between culture and law especially with respect to age of consent to sexual intercourse and cultures that encourage early marriage as some of the factors responsible for the ineffective implementation of legislation. The inability to implement the law encourages perpetrators to continue with abuse.

Apparently, there is no specific law that ensures the protection families and witnesses, individuals and organisations from intimidation and retaliation in respect of pursuit of justice in defense of child victims. However, some NGOs like Hope After Rape provide protection services to child victims of defilement where they give custody to children while their cases are under investigations. In some cases, relatives of these child victims keep the children while their cases are handled to ensure safety. In addition, NGOs such as UYDEL undertake interventions in providing services to child victims, for example they provide psychosocial counseling and other support services to children rescued from prostitution. Take for instance in year 2004, UYDEL provided counseling to a total of 1560 children (639 boys, 921 girls) involved in sex exploitation or child prostitution.

1.2 THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Uganda is a signatory to many international instruments put in place to safeguard the rights and welfare of children, including protection from any form of harm or violence whether physical, sexual or otherwise. Some of the instruments ratified include the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The outline below shows various legal and policy milestones Uganda has achieved, which are in essence, a demonstration to her commitment to promote the rights and welfare of the child.

- In 1990 the UNCRC and the AU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1992 was ratified by the Government of Uganda (GoU). The ACRWC outlaws child abuse and torture in article 16. Article 17 of the same charter protects children in the juvenile justice systems against any form of violence or infringement of their rights.
- In 1993 the National Council for Children (NCC) was established to co-ordinate ministries, donors, and NGOs on children's issues.
- In 1996 the Children Statute which after revision became the Children's Act, Cap. 59 (2000) was enacted
- Uganda ratified ILO convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, which protects children against sexual exploitation.
- The Penal Code Act Cap 120 states that any person who has sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of eighteen years is guilty of an offence and is liable to suffer death.
- The Children Act, cap 59: Besides the sections on the rights of the child, the Act mandates Local Councils (LCs) from village to district level to promote the welfare of children. Section 10 creates a

position of the 'Secretary for Children Affairs' who must be a member of the LC. The LC has a duty to take care of children in need of care and to report infringement of the rights of children.

- In 1997, the Universal Primary Education (UPE) Programme was declared. A response to Articles 28 and 29 of UNCRC on education. This enhances child protection since children become aware of their rights and get information on issues that affect their well being.

1.2.1 OTHER INTERVENTIONS BY DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNMENT IN THE AREA OF CHILD PROTECTION

- Uganda Police Force established the Family Protection Unit within the force to handle cases of violence against children. Presence of a special unit for children helps the children to have cases handled fast.
- Proceedings in court are held in camera and the media is therefore prohibited from publicizing court proceedings concerning children (Section 16 (1) (b) Children Act (Cap 59). This thus ensures the privacy of child victims and the protection of their identity.
- The National Council for Children is in the process of setting up a databank on child abuse and exploitation. This will inform stakeholders in the fight against child abuse on cases and magnitude and thus plan on ways of handling the situation.
- NGOs have continued with their work on child welfare and protection through advocacy, implementation of the Children Act Cap 59 and awareness raising. These NGOs include ANPPCAN, Save the Children Uganda, World Vision, and UCRNN.
- Rehabilitation programs for sexually abused and exploited children by NGOs such as SAP and HAR. SAP is training girls in one of the slums in Kampala in activities such as hair dressing, HIV/AIDS sensitization, training in life skills and counseling. These activities are aimed at reducing situations that expose them to child abuse.
- FIDA and the Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) provide legal representation to children. FIDA looks at issues of the sexually abused child while LAC provides juvenile justice to children of petty offences and those charged with sexual offences.
- The Penal Code Act was amended in 1990 to include additional punishment in order to safeguard children from sexual abuse and exploitation. However, there is a Bill that seeks to define defilement to include both boys and girls and to reduce hearing from High Court to Magistrate Grade 1 – yet to be passed. This is different from the proposed law on sexual offences by The Uganda Law Reform Commission – which is more comprehensive than the Bill.
- Uganda's Law Reform Commission has also drafted a new Sexual Offences Bill.
- Save the Children and other civil society organizations have made careful analysis of Uganda's Poverty Reduction Paper (the PEAP) from a child rights perspective. This analysis was valuable in informing the revised PEAP.
- UNICEF is currently supporting the Girl Child education under the Girls Education Movement (GEM). This is creating more opportunities for girls to access education.
- Recognizing the difficulties of ensuring justice for sexually abused children in the absence of evidence of age, government must hasten the revitalization of birth registration systems throughout the country and ensure that all children are given birth certificates at birth. This will be instrumental in dealing with difficulties associated with evidence regarding the age of the child in the prosecution of defilement cases.

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Child Protection Project was a collaboration project between Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) and the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) of the Uganda Police Force. This project was implemented with support from the OAK Foundation. The project sought to contribute to the creation of an environment that recognizes, promotes and protects children's rights through promotion of resilience and child friendly services in the districts of Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala. The core project areas were awareness raising, capacity building and livelihood skills building. The primary target beneficiaries were children below 18 years who have been abused or are at risk of abuse and exploitation while the secondary beneficiaries were Police and law enforcement officers, parents, teachers, community workers, local leaders and other community members in general.

1.3.1 PROJECT GOAL

Creating an environment that recognizes, promotes and protects children's rights through promotion of resilience and child friendly services in the districts of Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala

1.3.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- i. To build the capacities of 60 police and law enforcement officers (20 per district) on the provision of child friendly services to handle child protection matters and to effectively promote resilience in the care and rehabilitation of sexually abused and exploited children.
- ii. To enhance the protection of 600 children from abuse through sensitization of community networks (parent support groups, peer to peer networks, religious leaders, local leaders, NGOs and CBOs) on the rights of children and child issues.
- iii. To enhance child participation in the promotion of children's rights and to empower 120 child survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation by providing them with apprenticeship opportunities and training.

1.3.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

- o 60 police and law enforcement officers trained in child friendly approaches and to promote resilience while managing child sexual abuse and exploitation cases. 600 copies of advocacy/ IEC materials produced and disseminated to sensitize communities about child sexual abuse and exploitation and protection of children in general.
- o 20 new child right clubs established and 19 strengthened in Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala to support children empowerment and participation in the protection of themselves. 60 children trained in street Smart tool kit, which supports them in the development of street business to support themselves and their families
- o Increased awareness and information about child sexual abuse, child rights, child friendly approaches/services and promotion of resilience in a wider community.
- o Communities empowered to protect children from abuse and exploitation
- o A strong, integrated, and sustainable community based social protection system created to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation through community social protection networks formed by parents, local leaders, civil society Organizations (CSO) and children themselves.

- Children empowered with skills to cope with difficult situations and to make informed decisions about their lives.

2 PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The over all goal of this evaluation was to examine the contribution of the project to the protection of children from abuse, particularly sexual abuse to help chart a way forward for implementation of similar activities in future.

2.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

More specifically, the evaluation sought to:

- Assess the extent to which the project objectives have been achieved and determine the impact it has created on the target population.
- Assess the relevancy, effectiveness and efficiency regarding design monitoring and implementation and monitoring approaches of the project in addressing child protection issues.
- Examine the different options for sustainability of the project and explore the capacities of stakeholders involved to sustain the child protection initiatives in the communities and to extend the same services to other underserved areas.
- Document challenges, lessons learnt and suggest viable recommendations to guide future interventions

3 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Owing to the information requirements as suggested by the evaluation objectives, this study employed predominantly qualitative techniques in the collection, analysis and presentation of the study findings. Desk review of the original project documents such as progress reports, work plans, monitoring reports, and training reports was done in the initial stages of the evaluation exercise. This review facilitated the development of a checklist of issues/interview guides for use during fieldwork.

Different stakeholders and categories of people that have been actively involved implementation of the project were then engaged in discussions in relation to the project by the evaluation team. These were purposively selected from the three districts (Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala) where the project was implemented. The categories of people involved included; UYDEL staff, police officers from the CFPU, opinion leaders, members of parent support groups, Local Council Officials, patrons of child link clubs, and the local community members including children involved in Child Link Clubs and apprenticeship training. This method helped in generating a common understanding of the outputs and impacts of the interventions both in the short and long term, existing gaps in implementation, and strengths and weaknesses embedded in the interventions.

3.1 DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORT WRITING

The analysis of data was preceded by careful recording of all the raw data from interviews and developing transcripts. Data cleaning, editing and coding was done before analysis. Data was analyzed mainly using the following techniques:

Content Analysis/Thematic Analysis: This involved identifying and isolating the major themes, meanings, common explanations, patterns, trends and understandings in the respondents' responses. Using content analysis, the Consultant transcribed all the recorded interviews and read all the written ones. All the interviews were coded, which means that they were subjected to a 'dense' reading during which various issues and patterns of thinking were identified and labeled.

Textual Analysis: This was used to extract information from documents. It, therefore, complemented the information that was collected from the evaluation participants using the interview approach.

4 FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

This section presents finding of the evaluation. The findings are categorized according to themes drawn from the evaluation objectives. Narratives/voices of study participants have been cited to substantiate the arguments and key observations of the evaluation team.

4.1 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The evaluation team revealed that commendable efforts were made by UYDEL in building the capacity of law enforcement officers on child rights and child protection issues. Capacity building workshops for Police and Law Enforcement Officers were held in the Districts of Kampala, Kalangala and Mukono. The approach used was open discussions, debates and presentations to the subject of child friendly approaches in child protection. Overall, 61 police and law enforcement officers were trained in child friendly approaches in child protection and handling child abuse cases, and equipped with skills and knowledge on their role in child protection

Overall, there appeared to be improvement in the perception of community towards the role of the police, and handling of cases involving children by the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) as well as a conspicuous increase in the willingness of communities to report cases of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse. This is captured in the following remarks made the evaluation participants:

UYDEL has also built the capacity of the CFPU and other law enforcement officers in child friendly approaches of handling child abuse cases. This has dispelled the fear of reporting child abuse cases by children and their parents. We are now able to counsel abused children to the extent that they develop the confidence to talk to us. The community now welcomes the police and we summon instead of merely arresting children. We are more interested in reconciling than merely arresting caretakers who abuse children except for sexual abuse.

UYDEL has also trained us on how to handle abused children and children in conflict with the law. Children these days come to us to report child abuse cases. Parent Support Groups, Local Councils and UYDEL Volunteers have been very helpful—they help in the identification of victims and offenders

UYDEL has also given to us advocacy materials, particularly posters geared toward promotion of child rights and prevention of abuse. This has helped the CFPU in pursuance of its mission, which is to: “create a peaceful environment to see to it that the rights of children are not abused”.

There is still however, a need to build the capacity of the CFPU in counseling and rehabilitation of victims of sexual abuse and other children in conflict with the law. The capacity of the police to gather evidence to speed up cases of children needs augmentation. The transfer of trained police officers to other areas outside the project area is also a threat to the sustainability of this activity. In addition there are no facilities to allow for privacy during counseling sessions with children, which ultimately affect their response.

4.2 CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES

The second objective of the project was to enhance protection of 600 children from abuse through sensitization of community networks on child rights and child protection issues. The evaluation revealed that a range of initiatives were employed to this effect. These included: Formation/strengthening of Parent Support Groups; formation/strengthening of school based Child Link clubs; and training of duty bearers such as teachers, local leaders and law enforcement officers on the rights of children and protection of children from sexual abuse.

4.2.1 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR OTHER DUTY BEARERS

In an effort to create a protective environment where the rights of children are recognized and protected, capacity building targeted trainings for parents, teachers, NGOs/CBOS, local leaders and religious leaders were carried in the all the three districts in which the project was implemented. Overall, 105 parents, 31 local and religious leaders and 47 teachers/NGO workers were trained in child protection issues. This was done by UYDEL in collaboration with the police, specifically, the Child and Family Protection Unit. This has equipped the duty bearers with skills to effectively handle child protection issues in a friendly manner and to promote resilience among children to protect themselves from abuse.

Reportedly, the capacity building for the duty bearer has contributed to the building of a social protection network that protects children from abuse and neglect. Community awareness on the problem of child abuse and neglect has also greatly improved. From the interviews held with the CFPU Policemen, the evaluation team established that the perception of the public about the Child and Family Protection Unit of the Police has tremendously improved following the support offered by UYDEL.

4.2.2 FORMATION OF PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS (PSGs)

Overall, 19 Parent Support Groups (PSGs) have reportedly been formed in the three project districts; seven (7) in Kampala, 6 in Kalangala and other six (6) in Mukono. Under this initiative community members reportedly work with other duty bearers to augment child protection efforts and support families with child protection problems. Training in children protection issues, particularly child rights and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) was extended to members of the PGS by UYDEL in collaboration with police and law enforcement officers. Because of their proximity to communities, members of the parent support groups are in position to identify and report cases of child abuse or provide appropriate referral for abused children. This is succinctly captured in the following remarks by some of the members of the PSGs who participate in the evaluation:

We were also encouraged to form a parent support group. This is a voluntary group of parents with an aim of protecting and safe guarding children from abuse. Our group currently has about 20 members. We follow upon cases of abused children reported to police to ensure that victims get justice. Abused children also report cases to us and we help them forward the cases to enforcement agencies.

As a parent support group, we identify abused children and register them with UYDEL. We also counsel abused children and report cases of abuse to the police and/or local council. The police and local council in turn work with us to ensure that cases of abuse are resolved

Our work entails mainly giving support, counseling and guidance to parents and children affected by child protection problems such as sexual abuse. In most cases we go out to visit the families within their communities. In addition, we refer cases to relevant duty bearers, most importantly the police and UYDEL. Some times the CFPU also get referrals from us.

During the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held with parents, the evaluation revealed that some support groups, with support from UYDEL, Police Child Protection Officers and local leaders have been able to organize and hold community education seminars within their localities. Reportedly, a total of 10 community sensitization seminars were conducted in Mukono and 06 in each of the other two districts, to sensitize community members about children rights, positive parenting skills and child protection issues. The evaluation revealed that, this has increased the awareness and knowledge of the communities on issues of child abuse and a lot of cases are being reported to UYDEL and the CFPU.

We have been sensitized and educated on child rights and child abuse by UYDEL. Police officers and other law enforcement officers also attend our community education programmes and train us in child rights and handling of child abuse cases. As a result our working relationship with the police has greatly improved as a result of UYDEL's intervention.

As a result of the community education seminars, parents have developed the concern about abused children and are now being able to identify abused children, report to the Local Council, and in case the situation is not resolved, they do report to the Child and Family Protection Unit of the Police

Paradoxically, the evaluation revealed the need for intensification and scaling up of community education and awareness raising activities on child rights and protection especially in the remote area. The interventions need to be fairly spread within the districts so that more people appreciate the need for safe guarding and protection of children from abuse. This will improve the handling of cases needs to improve right from the community where cases emerge and where they can be buried, where children rights are sacrificed at the alter of materialism. There has hardly been any sensitization in the remote islands of Mukono; and the numerous distant Islands in Kalangala.

4.2.3 ADVOCACY MATERIALS

Discussions with the project management team revealed that different IEC materials were produced and disseminated to sensitize communities about child sexual abuse and exploitation and protection of children in general. These included; 1,500 brochures on “the truth about Child Sexual Abuse and how to promote resilience” and 2,857 posters on “Say No to Sexual Abuse, Child Sacrifice and severe beating is harmful to a child's life”. These have supplemented awareness workshops and community meetings in disseminating vital messages to communities on child rights, child sexual abuse and child protection issues including promotion of resilience. Reportedly, nearly all the IEC materials have been disseminated, although it has been noted that these are not enough in relation to the importance of the work the organization and the project is doing.

4.3 CHILD PARTICIPATION

The third objective of this project was to enhance child participation in promotion of children's rights and empower 100 children with livelihood skills to cope with after effects of abuse, and effectively deal with situations that could lead to further abuse/exploitation. Activities in this regard included provision of access to life skills, promotion of peer education networks (for in and out of school children), life planning skills training (street smart) and apprenticeship opportunities and vocational skills training to abused children or children at the risk of abuse. Children (in and out of school) also participated in activities of the project as peer educators. They were trained on children rights and other child protection issues, given information on how to help their peers and report cases of abuse. This illuminated in the discussion below:

4.3.1 CHILD LINK CLUBS AND PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS

Evidence from the evaluation reveals that in addition to training teachers in child rights and child protection issues, UYDEL facilitated the formation of Child Link clubs in different schools in the three project districts. Overall, 24 Child link clubs- 10 in Kampala, 10 in Mukono and 4 in Kalangala have been formed/strengthened in the different schools. The objective of these clubs is to educate children on their rights while at the same time giving children an opportunity to discuss their own experiences and opinions on child rights They also share information among themselves. Through the clubs children participate in advocacy and awareness creation activities. They develop and make presentations on issues affecting children through poems, plays, drama and songs to illustrate the everyday challenges they face with support from club patrons (these are teachers who were trained by the project in children rights), and UYDEL project staff.

Many children have joined the clubs as members a result of sensitization and the interest they have in participating in issues that affect them. On average, these clubs consist of 30-35 members, drawn from different classes. These clubs carry out sensitization on the issues of child defilements, child abuse and child labour to there peers. These clubs have also been used by UYDEL as an avenue to teach school going children about child rights and child protection issues.

Similarly, the evaluation team revealed that 49 out-of-school children in the districts of operation (17 in Kampala, 16 in Mukono and 16 in Kalangala) have been trained as peer educators and provided information on children rights, life skills and child protection issues to pass on to fellow children who they interact with in the communities and at UYDEL drop-in-centers and 2 out of school children clubs were formed in Kampala and Mukono drop-in-centers and they lead group counseling sessions held at drop-in-centers every Saturday.

The evaluation team revealed however, there is limitation in time for the activities of the Child Link Clubs due to tight schedules at school. There is also need for support materials and sustainability of the clubs, including their institutionalization within the school activities. At the same time, some teachers lack the requisite capacity and will to offer the necessary support to children to participate in their clubs. It is the consultant's belief that improved understanding of child protection issues and child rights among Head teachers and school staff is crucial for the institutionalization of Child Link Clubs within the school structures. The manner in which clubs in schools are introduced matters in terms of eliciting support from the school administration. There is also need to encourage positive interaction between the school administration and Child Link Clubs. This requires UYDEL to organize more sensitization workshops with teachers in schools were these clubs operate. Alternatively, more teachers from a single school should be

trained in facilitation of the club in order to create a pool of potential club facilitators. Clubs should also work closely with school administrations in terms of informing the latter of their planned activities, and clubs need to get more exposure by sharing ideas with other clubs/groups.

Resource mobilization can also be an integral part of improving the impact of the clubs. The clubs can participate in income generating activities such as poultry farming to enable them get funds to expand their activities. Ownership of the clubs by the schools is more likely to ensure long-term sustainability of the clubs than is the case at the moment. At present, except in a few schools, Head Teachers are not involved in the operations of the Clubs. In this case, the process of introduction of the clubs matters.

4.3.2 APPRENTICESHIP AND SKILLS TRAINING

UYDEL has made commendable efforts in establishing support programs for abused children or children at the risk of abuse (street girls, working girls, HIV/AIDS orphans) through provision of access to life skills, and apprenticeship and skills training. Most of the trained children are identified by the local leaders and Parent Support Groups while others are either referred by their peers or come by themselves to seek assistance at UYDEL centers.

The evaluation revealed that 260 children have been supported to undertake vocational skills training in various trades, ranging from hairdressing to catering and mechanics. The majority of the children are trained at different UYDEL centers, while others are trained by local artisans within their communities. The evaluation team established that most of the Artisans are comfortable with the agreement they made with UYDEL and willing to continue with the partnership. All the children under the training of the Artisans were appreciative of the role performed by their trainers.

Table: Summary of children who have been trained

Skill	Kampala		Mukono		Kalangala		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Welding	28	01					29
Electronics	21	08					29
Motor vehicle mechanics		-	07	-	05		12
Motor bike mechanics	02		04	-			06
Hairdressing		56		45		03	104
Tailoring		45		28		02	75
Catering		02		-			02
Plumbing		03		-			03
Totals	51	115	11	73	05	05	260

Source: UYDEL (CBCPP) Records, December 2007

Upon completion of training, children are given start up kits depending on the trade in which training is provided. For example, children who complete training in hairdressing are given hand hair dryers while those who complete training in tailoring are given sewing machines.

Through life and vocational skills training, children are equipped with employable skills and empowered and to start own small scale enterprises to earn incomes in safer ways. Discussions with some of the children

who have completed training in different trades revealed that many have been able to apply the acquired skills, with varying degree, to improve their lives and sustain themselves through self-employment or by getting employed by other people in their respective areas of training. This has enhanced the youths' livelihood and reduced their vulnerability to abuse and sexual exploitation. This is reflected in the remarks made by some of the evaluation participants and the case study below:

"The skills I acquired helped me get a job, and although I still earn very little, I can deal with my own problems" (Female trained youth, Mukono)

"Immediately after training, I was contacted by a local saloon to start working for them, because they knew I had acquired the skills in braiding and plaiting" (Female trained youth, Mpererve, Kampala)

Case study 1

Nakazi Sarah is a sixteen year old orphan. She lost both her parents when she was an infant. She has since been staying with her guardian (Grand mother). She dropped out school (at primary seven) in 2006, because her grand mother could no longer afford to pay for her school fees and meet costs of other scholastic materials. Asked whether she knew UYDEL, she said "I know UYDEL as an organization that helps hopeless and helpless children such as school drop outs, Orphans, and children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLWHA)"

She says that she was introduced to UYDEL by his brother who is a friend to one of UYDEL'S Community mobiliser in Mukono. She trained in tailoring under the UYDEL child Protection project and was passed out in June 2007. According to her, the training took three months. After training, she says, she was given a sewing machine as a start up tool. Asked how the training has helped her, she said: "I have benefited a lot. Since completing the training, I have used the skills I acquired and the sewing machine that was given to me to raise some money one my own.

On average I can earn 2000 a day. To me this is better than earning money through despicable means such as having to extend sexual favors to men in return for money. This is dangerous because it can lead to early pregnancy, and contraction of HIV"

Asked about the challenges she has encountered since completion of training, she laughed, rather shyly and said "I am yet to find a good place where I can get in contact with so many customers. The cost of rent for my current place of work is ruinously high".

Discussions revealed that street smart² life planning skills workshops (10 modular training for 123 children; 63 in Mukono and 60 in Kampala) were also conducted for children benefiting from vocational skills training in Mukono & Kampala. Children were taught about risky behaviors, personalized risks, decision making, problem solving and goal setting skills to enable them think about their life goals and make better life choices once they graduate from their training. In addition, over 400 children have benefited from behavioural change sessions that are held at UYDEL centres every Saturday. These are three hour group counseling and learning sessions where children are taught their rights and responsibilities, how to protect

² Street smart is a 10 modular behavioural change and life skills building intervention that teaches children/youth in difficult situations or those engaged in risky sexual behaviours how to regain their self esteem to make safe choices in life. These sessions encourage children value their lives, cope well with difficult situations by not engaging in risky sexual behaviours such as transactional sex that pose a risk to contracting HIV/AIDS.

themselves from abuse and what to do in case they face abuse. In addition, UYDEL social workers conduct individual counseling to abused children at the drop-in-centres and also support the CFPU to do the same.

The following responses emerged from FGDs when children were asked about the different skills that have been taught to them by UYDEL:

- *They teach us livelihood skills*
- *They teach us HIV/AIDS prevention*
- *They teach us about child rights*
- *They teach us about child abuse*
- *They teach us self discipline and social skills*
- *They also teach us about reproductive health*

These sessions have given the children confidence to share their life experiences for the benefit of their peers, restored their self esteem and also given them vital information to make better life choices. The children also participate in other activities organized at the drop-in centres including music dance and drama, sports, youth camps and other recreation activities to enable them practice the life skills they are taught and also pass on protection messages to their peers. The project team has also been working closely with the CFPU to refer and counsel children who have been sexually abused and exploited and also those who are physically and emotionally abused. These have been instrumental in supporting abused children develop resilience to cope with traumatic abusive situations they had encountered.

4.4 RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS TO THE NEEDS AND SITUATION BEING ADDRESSED

Discussions during the evaluation revealed that the project interventions were relevant to the manifest and latent needs of the target districts as well as the situation being addressed. Issues of Child sexual abuse, perhaps even more than other types of abuse, require collaboration between and amongst the duty bearers and extensive awareness campaigns on child rights and child protection to communities, schools and community leaders; an approach that UYDEL employed in its intervention in all the three project districts. This has led to an increased awareness that the: “safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a responsibility shared by families, communities and other duty bearers”. There is evidence to show that the project has to some extent led to creation Child-safe and child-friendly communities within the project districts. Commitment to the promotion of the safety and well-being of children has improved owing to increased community awareness.

The PSGs approach has been instrumental in increasing awareness on the rights of the child, child abuse, and child protection at the grass root level and challenge parents to report cases of child abuse. This approach represents a localized system of supporting child protection efforts and families with child protection problems. PSGs are known for reporting child rights violations, following up of cases involving children and directing affected children seeking legal and psychological help to the appropriate duty bearers. Cases were cited in which PSGs have been able to refer children to benefit from UYDEL services at child drop-in-centers and cases of abuse to police stations and local councils. Parent support groups have also been instrumental in sensitizing/teaching fellow parents about child rights, child protection issues and positive parenting skills through community meetings.

Sensitization seminars for community members and duty bearers (i.e. parents, local leaders, teachers, NGO/CBO workers and children) have increased the community capacity to identify and report cases of abuse. Reportedly, the training and awareness seminars have stimulated dialogue among parents on issues of child protection and prompted more reporting of cases of abuse, particularly physical and sexual abuse. This intervention has also strengthened the capacity of key child protection duty bearers at district and lower levels to effectively undertake their roles and responsibilities in the protection of children against abuse and exploitation. The involvement of teachers in the project has created a friendly and enabling environment where children easily report cases of child abuse to school authorities or police stations.

As a result of the capacity building training, police officers, particularly from the CFPU have been equipped with relevant skills in dealing with child sexual abuses in a child friendly way. Police and law enforcement officers have also come to appreciate the need to work closely with communities. This has narrowed the divide between the community and the police which in turn has improved reporting of child abuse cases. The community attitude and willingness to help the police in handling of cases of abuses has also improved. The police unit of Child and Family Protection has reportedly become more active and victim friendly in the three project districts. Notwithstanding, police officers argued that systems for child protection need to further be strengthened. This is likely to translate in both speedy and appropriate handling of cases involving children. The LC courts and traditional mechanisms are still the most popular ways to settle children issues and some stakeholder's lack of clear grasp of the legal provisions for child protection works against the welfare of children. The capacity of the CFPU also needs to be built especially in counseling and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law.

Child link Clubs represent a key child empowerment approach through children themselves participating in initiatives geared towards protecting and enhancing their rights. The clubs represent an important avenue through which children can discuss their own experiences and opinions on child rights. Through these clubs, children mobilize, teach, refer and do basic life skills counselling to fellow children that need protection. Children also share their experiences so that other children can learn from them how to cope with difficult situations. Through these groups, children are also able to discuss issues related to child abuse, and pass on information to their peers. Child Link clubs also offer a forum for children to discuss concerns of sexual exploitation by teachers and other adults, and the way of preventing abuses. In addition, members of each club participate in music, dance and drama to illustrate the everyday challenges they face.

Information, education and Communication (IEC) materials were reportedly critical to sensitization efforts. The IEC materials are well designed with clear, readable and easy to comprehend messages for easy public consumption. They were used in awareness raising (display of posters) and sensitization of stakeholders. The evaluation revealed that schools, Parent Support Groups and community members effectively used the IEC materials as teaching aids. Efforts therefore should be made to scale up the production and distribution of these IEC materials in the communities being targeted. The system of distribution should also be streamlined to ensure fair distribution among the duty bearers and also ensure that they reach out to the general population.

The approach of training abused children and children at risk of abuse in apprenticeship and life planning skill is commendable and systematic efforts should be taken to scale it up. Besides learning technical and occupationally specific skills (Vocational/ apprenticeship skills), children are equipped with street smart life planning skills. Reportedly some children, who benefited from vocational training, have been able to find employment in their respective trades. This has afforded children an opportunity to earn income (See case study 2 below). Besides enhancing their livelihood, this has reduced the vulnerability of many children to abuse, particularly sexual abuse. Life planning skills has enabled many children learn how to cope with

difficult situations and to avoid behaviors that predispose them to sexual abuse. The behavior change sessions at UYDEL drop-in-centers have helped the children develop appropriate and responsible behaviors regarding: how to protect themselves from abuse; and what to do in case they face abuse. However, concerns were expressed over the short training period. Many youths felt that the duration of training should have been made longer to enable them develop a clearly mastery of all the techniques involved in their respective trades.

Case study 2

Evelyn Namuwaya is a young girl aged 19. She lives in Kyebando and was trained by UYDEL in hair dressing under the Child Protection project. This, she says, enabled her to learn skills in hair styling, plaiting, braiding, weaving, and hair treatment. She is currently employed in a saloon in Mpererwe as a hair dresser.

She said; “By the time I was selected for the training, I was completely doing nothing. I had dropped out of Primary Seven with no hope for anything. After the training, we were provided with start up tool-personally I was given a head dryer. It took me some time to get work but I used to do weaving and plaiting on a casual basis after completing training. I later learnt of a lady who was looking for a hair dresser to work in her saloon through a friend. At the first time of asking, I was offered the Job.

I am grateful to UYDEL because prior to the training, I knew nothing and I was not able to earn any income on my own but now I can. On average, I earn about UGX 5000 (US\$ 3) a day, which I use to buy personal basics like food, clothes among others. I intend to start saving some money such that I can be able to start my own saloon in future. I also benefitted a lot from the behavioral change sessions from the UYDEL centre in Masooli (Gayaza Road). During these sessions, we were often counseled and taught how to protect ourselves from abuse and how to cope with difficult situations. We were also provided with information on HIV/AIDS prevention and also told to avoid promiscuity and prostitution”.

Asked how she thought the training can be strengthened, she said “ I am not complaining, but I feel however, the training should have been made longer so as to enable me learn more”. She also pointed out to the need to train more youths, especially those that have dropped out school to enable them learn practical and employable skills.

4.5 EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MANAGEMENT APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

One of the key themes of this evaluation exercise was to assess the extent to which the management approaches (project design, and monitoring and evaluation approaches) and other strategies employed by the project have been efficient and effective in achieving the project goals. The evaluation revealed that the child protection interventions by UYDEL were largely underpinned by working in close collaboration with all the duty bearers and stakeholders, including children themselves and communities. Underlying this design and approach was the need to forge alliances, and ensure sound linkages and synergy with all partners to enhance the protection of affected children and address the issues of child sexual abuse collaboratively.

Through the sensitization activities to create awareness on child rights violation and child protection issues more people and duty bearers have been reached through seminars, workshops, community discussions, and training of community volunteers in UYDEL's area of coverage. The skills obtained during the trainings have empowered them to be confident, facilitate at different events and address problems as they arise in their communities. The involvement of the police especially in community education seminars has contributed greatly to a change in the community perception towards the police, more particularly the Child and Family Protection Unit. The evaluation showed that there is good working relationship between communities and police in each of the three project districts. This has contributed to the building of a social protection network that protects children from abuse and neglect and an environment in which children rights are appreciated and protected. The different duty bearers have been able to effectively use their acquired knowledge and skills to raise awareness on child abuse, report cases of abuse to police and encourage children to defend their own rights.

Owing to the capacity building training, the attitude of law enforcement agents, particularly the Police Officers has changed to appreciate the burden of child abuse especially sexual abuse. As a result, more cases have been reportedly followed up with the help of the PSGs and local leaders. The positive attitude of the law enforcement agents especially the police has led to increased reporting of cases of abuse and cooperation from the communities, in respect to prosecution of offenders. During the evaluation, most police officers confessed that they were enlightened by the workshops and activities that they have been involved in by UYDEL. They pointed out to the need for more activities and refresher courses to keep them abreast with the current child protection and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) issues as well as how to carry out their roles in the communities and handling of cases in child friendly approaches.

UYDEL has helped us a lot in regard to our work as the Child and Family Protection Unit. Our capacity has been built to handle cases of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse in a child friendly way. This was done through a series of workshops and dialogue meeting on child protection. We were also given IEC materials to distribute to the communities. These have increased community awareness on child abuse. (FGD with CFPU staff, Mukono)

UYDEL has also helped us in counseling victims of sexual abuse and explaining to the communities the role of the police, particularly the CFPU. The latter is a relevant approach of empowering communities to work with the police in protecting their children from abuse and addressing issues of rights violation (Interview with Ms. Fiona Beine-In-charge CFPU)

As a unit, UYDEL facilitates us to carry out sensitization activities for local leaders, parents and children on issues related to child abuse and the role of the CFPU. This has bridged the gap between the police and the community and promoted cooperation especially during investigation of child abuse cases (Interview with the Community Liaisons Officer, Kawempe).

The training in life planning skills, children rights and child protection issues and subsequent involvement of children (both abused and at risk of abuse) in the child protection interventions has boosted their self-esteem, self-awareness, and many other life skills. The onus is now on these children to further develop these skills through different activities such as youth support group within their communities. The evaluation also revealed that owing to high numbers of children in need of care and protection, UYDEL established drop-in-centers. Such centers provide space for children to play and engage themselves in creative activities through music, dance, drama, sports etc. and use their time productively. These activities encourage meaningful peer group participation and interaction, shared learning and act as therapies to relieve trauma and stress caused by abusive situations. At these centers, children also benefit from behavioral change sessions that are held every Saturday. This way, children are kept away from socially deviant behaviors.

The approach of building the capacity of Child Link Clubs and training of teachers as patrons shows opportunities for sustaining the project activities of providing platform for peer learning and expression among school going children geared toward protecting them from abuse. From the evidence gathered by this evaluation however, it is apparent that balancing quantity (number of clubs, children, schools, and so on) with quality (learning, awareness raising and so on) has not been easy for UYDEL. This is largely due to the overwhelming response to join the club among pupils. As the clubs have increased in number, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and other duties have become a challenge. In the case of training, it was a one way off event.

Discussion with the project team revealed that, as part of the intervention, one qualified Social Worker was attached to each of the three districts where the project was implemented. The Social Worker (SW) worked closely with Child and Family Protection Unit under the Police, Parent Support Groups, local leaders and community to provide children in need with counseling to enable them recover from adverse experience (of sexual abuse), and to help build a caring and protective environment for them. Children targeted included those in socially, psychologically or emotionally 'at risk' situations, including in family or household settings. However, evidence reveals that a glaring need for more Social Workers (SW) in each of the three districts. The Social Workers are reportedly overwhelmed by the exceedingly huge volume of Child Sexual abuse cases reported in their respective districts yet the capacity of the police, and more particularly the CFPU to provide providing counseling services to such children is wanting.

The Parent Support Groups are at the heart of UDYEL child protection interventions. This has proved to be a potent approach to encouraging open discussion about child protection and child sexual abuse issues within the communities. They also act as a link between communities and other duty bearers; particularly, they act as a link between UYDEL-the communities-the parents-children and the police. The evaluation also revealed that community based volunteers were used to monitor and supervise the activities of the Parent Support Groups as well as those of the Child Link clubs. Notwithstanding, the evaluation showed that developing clear goals is essential for a successful Parent Support Group. Without a clear picture of what it wants to provide or accomplish, the group may drift with no specific direction, resulting in no action. Some members may exert energy in conflicting directions, meeting few needs and leading to general dissatisfaction. Goals should be specific to the needs of the children and their families.

The achievements of the project also owe, in part, to the collaboration with the Uganda police force, expertise of the project staff and determinedly strong networking. The project collaborated with a number of agencies in child protection issues through the Uganda Child Rights NGO network (UCRNN). The project team also worked with the probation officers in the three districts during community education

seminars as well as in referral and counselling of victims. This encouraged information sharing especially on best practicable approaches of child protection. This is a good practice and should be encouraged. Collaboration of this nature encourages sharing of experiences, exchanging ideas and increases synergy. It is through this collaborative spirit that, UYDEL wrote a memorandum of understanding with Uganda police. Working with the police accorded the Project a degree of legitimacy and helped in bridging the gap between the police and the communities. The Capacity of the project team was unquestionable. The team consisted of well qualified social workers and child welfare experts.

4.6 OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT AND CAPACITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS TO SUSTAIN THE CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES

In context of this evaluation, sustainability is taken to mean the project capacity to generate internal synergies and characteristics of a process that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely. Sustainability is measured in several forms including: institutional, social, financial and ownership. The evidence from this evaluation suggest that the key sustainability strategies of UYDEL have been to build the capacity of the police; duty bearers and communities in child protection issues with emphasis on child friendly approaches in handling of abuse cases and the specific roles and responsibilities of the different duty bearers.

Efforts have also been initiated to encourage 'parent-to-parent talk' and discussion on issues of child sexual abuse in particular and child protection issues in general through Parent Support Groups. This has made the project acceptable to local communities and promoted local ownership of the project. Communities have been empowered to identify and support abused children and participate in the promotion of the rights of the child. Local leaders have also pledged more support for UYDEL programs and to ensure their sustainability. Working with Community Based Volunteers is one other way in which the capacity of the community to sustain project intervention has been built. These require facilitation and motivation for follow-up of groups' activities and monitoring of child abuse situations in their communities.

The Child Link Clubs have given the children an opportunity to use their reasoning, insight and expertise to the construction of their own values, meanings, and strategies. However, evidence suggests that in part the continued existence of the Child Link clubs in the schools is related to the support that they receive from the school administration. Where the clubs have received support, as the case of Nile Secondary School in Mukono suggests, they have been of utmost benefit to the schools with regard to awareness raising and good morals. In terms of financial sustainability, it is evident that at present the clubs, just like PSGs cannot sustain their own operations. UYDEL, in subsequent interventions should consider facilitating both the PSGs and Child Link Clubs to start Income Generating Activities (IGAs) such as poultry farming to enable them get funds to expand their activities.

Capacity building for Police and law enforcement officers has the potential to contribute to the sustainability of the project. The CFPU is particularly committed to promoting the welfare and protection of children. However, this is threatened by the continued official transfer of trained police officer to other areas outside the project area. The capacity of the CFPU in counseling and rehabilitation of victims of child abuse was also found wanting. This requires serious attention since in most cases after engaging communities on issues of child protection and child rights correspondingly increases demand and referral from community members to attend to specific needs of these children. The capacity of the Police to gather evidence to speed up cases of children also needs augmentation.

The approach of networking with different service providers and originations involved in protection of children such as ANPPCAN, Hope after Rape, MoGLSD should be harnessed and continued. The collaboration between UYDEL and other agencies is very good and highly commended and this has implications to the general sustainability of the project.

Capacity building for all duty bearers at different levels involved in issues affecting children, to effectively understand, appreciate, and participate in the child protection interventions should further be strengthened. These may include staff of justice agencies, District Probation and Welfare Officers (DPWO) members of

the community and children themselves. This is because sustainability in the area of child protection requires concerted efforts of different agencies, duty bearers and organizations offering varied services to abused children.

5.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

During the evaluation, a number of challenges that beset that effectiveness of the interventions were revealed. These included among others:

- The continued transfer of trained police officer to other areas outside the project area affects the continuity of project interventions. This affects the capacity of the CFPU to deal with the burden of child abuse.
- The capacity of Police Officers from the CFPU to provide psychosocial support services to children in need to enable them recover from adverse experience (of sexual abuse) and promote resilience is still limited.
- The Social Workers are reportedly overwhelmed by the exceedingly huge volume of Child Sexual abuse cases reported in their respective districts. Thus the glaring need for more Social Workers (SW) in each of the three districts.
- Police Stations lack Victim Support Units/centres (VSU) where sexually abused children can be accommodated while undergoing rehabilitation and receiving psychological support. Often abused children are mixed with offenders in police cells, which in itself constitute a form of child abuse.
- Some parents are not very cooperative and are reluctant to follow up cases of their abused children to the end, to ensure justice. For example some parents still refuse to record police statements and/accept to settle cases outside court. This apathy among parents, coupled with the inadequacy in provisions of the law limits the CFPU efforts in following up of and charging offenders for crimes of abuse against children. This points out to the need to deepen community education programmes on child abuse and rights.
- Some of the child abusers are also their guardians or relatives. This makes it exceedingly difficult for the CFPU to pursue such cases, especially in the absence of Victim Support Unit (VSU). Reportedly, it is hard to detain the provider of the abused child. As expressed by a Police Officer at Mukono Police Post, *“it is likened to biting the hands that feed you”*
- Victims sexual abuse need money for medical examination by a qualified medical worker and other expenses such as getting the doctor to testify in courts of law. To most parents, this is ruinously expensive for them to afford and as a result some cases are dropped. In addition, some cases of abused children are not followed up owing to lack of facilitation and other logistical inadequacies.
- Follow up of Child Protection cases and interventions by UYDEL were reportedly incapacitated by lack of a substantive budget line for monitoring and evaluation of project interventions.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation findings highlighted above, it is in the considered opinion of the Consultant that the following be improved in respect to design, strategy of implementation and provision services. This will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of similar project activities in future.

IEC materials play an important role in raising the awareness of communities on child protection issues. Efforts should be made to scale up the production and distribution of these IEC materials in the communities being targeted. The system of distribution should also be streamlined to ensure fair distribution among the duty bearers and also ensure that they reach out to the general population. Effort should also be made to ensure that they are displayed in public places where people are likely to converge like churches, public notice boards, schools, etc.

There is still need for increased sensitization and awareness creation on child protection at local community levels. UYDEL should make an effort to intensify community education and awareness raising activities on child abuse especially in the remote areas. In this respect the CFPU can be facilitated to carry out more sensitization trainings on child rights and abuse in deeply remote areas like Kome Island in Mukono and the numerous (distant) Islands of Kalangala. Being a fishing community, Kalangala district presents a special challenge. With low literacy levels, high poverty levels; and remoteness, child (sexual) abuse is rampant yet child protection services are scattered and limited. It is important that sensitization by UYDEL and CFPU be scaled up in Kalangala; the remote areas in Mukono and slum areas in Kampala. Parents urgently need to be sensitized to enable them appreciate the need for safe guarding and protection of children from abuse. This will improve the handling of cases right from the community where cases emerge yet often dropped due to the costs; ignorance and apathy associated with following up cases amidst poverty—as guardians are often bribed.

Capacity building initiatives in child protections need to be expanded to bring on board other duty bearer and agencies providing services to victims of child sexual abuse. These may include staff of justice agencies, District Probation and Welfare Officers (DPWO) and key government departments and CSOs working for and with children. This is because sustainability in the area of child protection requires concerted efforts of different agencies, duty bearers and organizations offering varied services to abused children. In addition, a lot more is still needed to be done to change of attitude among various actors including magistrates towards the rights of children, and improving the working relations between the FPU and CID offices of the police among others.

The PSGs approach has been instrumental in increasing awareness on the rights of the child, child abuse, and child protection at the grass root level and challenge parents to report cases of child abuse. There is however need to further build the capacity of PSGs in child protection issues, especially in counseling skills such that they can be able to offer psychosocial support to victims of sexual abuse at a local level.

The need to facilitate the establishment of IGAs for PSG is also apparent. This will improve their capacity to provide basic needs for their own children and motivate them to identify and report cases of abuse as income generated will be used to facilitate their operations. IGAs will also make the groups more cohesive, self reliant and attractive to parents.

Medical facilitation for victims of abuse should also be incorporated in subsequent projects to ensure that substantial evidence is obtained in cases of sexual abuse, necessary for prosecution purposes.

There is need for establishment of Victim Support Units (VCU) at different police centers. This will prevent situation where children are bundled with criminals and offenders in cells, which in itself is an abuse. This can be done with support and in collaboration with institutions involved in child protection such as Save the Children in Uganda, African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect (APPCAN), Hope After Rape (HAR) among others.

The issue of transfer of police officers can be tackled through regular training. Refresher courses are also needed for Police Officers to keep them abreast with the current child protection and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) issues as well as how to carry out their roles in the communities and handling of cases in child friendly approaches.

The capacity of the CFPU should be built especially in counseling and rehabilitation of victims of sexual abuse. This will reduce the burden placed on the glaringly inadequate number of social workers

The approach of vocational skills training is commendable. Nonetheless, efforts should be made to scale up this program so that more abused children and/or children at risk of abuse are taken care of. More so, Sustaining training programs of this nature requires that after the training, each trainee who succeeds trains another vulnerable child in his/her area of specialization to enable more vulnerable children to benefit from the programme. This is a practice done in other agencies promoting vocational skills training to increase the success of such programs.

The skills training component can be also strengthened by enforcing a strict code of rules and regulations for the trainees to follow while at the different centers. This will ensure discipline among the trainees. UYDEL should also consider expanding the training period for some trades. This will ensure that the children master all the intricacies and develop a mastery of the techniques involved in their respective training. For example, evaluation participants argued that the training in hairdressing should be extended from the current three months to at least six months while trades like motor vehicle mechanics need close to two years of training.

Some children, especially those in garages also need to be provided with protective gears like gloves, glasses and food to motivate them to learn the skills.

The evaluation showed that the Social Workers (one in each of the three districts) are overwhelmed by the exceedingly huge volume of Child Sexual abuse cases reported in their respective districts. Subsequent interventions should consider recruiting more Social Workers on board. Alternatively, the project should identify, train and support volunteer counselors to offer psychosocial support to child victims to enable them recover from adverse experience (of sexual abuse). There is also need for facilitation in terms of transport (purchase a vehicle) for the project team to be able to timely respond to child protection cases and monitor activities of community networks.

APPENDICES

Table2: Cases reported to police between Januarys -November 2007

No.	Form of abuse	District				
		Mukono	Kalangala	Kampala		
				Old Kampala	Wandegeya	Kawempe
1.	Defilement	130	40	118	51	227
2.	Child neglect	42	13	184	103	323
3.	Domestic violence	32	10	218	133	215
4.	Assault in general	46	155	11	50	186
6.	Children in conflict with the law	10	07	58	15	1
7.	Missing/abandoned	11	08	79	61	33
8.	Indecent assault	1	04	2	10	03
9.	Abortion	-	01	-	-	-
10	Assaulted juveniles	-	03	-	-	-
11	Forcefully taking away children		-	24	-	16
12	Child labour			07	0	-
	Total	272	241	701	423	1004

* *Kampala statistics represent 3 out of five divisions where the project has been implemented.*

LIST OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Fiona Beine	In-charge, CFPU. Kampala
Aloyo Stella	CFPU, Uganda Police Head Quarters, Kampala
Florence Acero	Community Liaison officer/Head of CFPU, Mukono
Ruth Nabiryo	In-charge; CFPU, Mukono
Mr. Rogers Kasirye	Executive Director, UYDEL
Ms. Regina Kacwamu	Project Coordinator, UYDEL
Asuman Hamis	Patron, Child Link Club, Pimbas S.S
Mr. Basajasubi	Community Liaisons Officer, Kawempe
Rose Kateba	Project Officer, UYDEL, Mukono
Mr. Lugolooobi Willy	Probation and welfare Officer, Kalangala
Ms. Winnie Nantabo	Project Officer, Kalangala
Bbaale Abraham	Community Liaison Officer/Child & Family Protection, Kalangala
Were Azizi	Police officer, Kalangala
Bwanika Bbaale Henry	Club Patron for Kinyamira Primary school, Kalangala
Kiiza Steven	Kalangala District Education Forum
Nabata Florence	Kalangala District Women Initiative
Kiwewa Godfrey	In-charge (Minor Criminal Cases), Kalangala Police Station
Salongo Lumumye	Chairperson, Parents Support Group, Kalangala
Nakintu Mary	Vice chairperson, Parents Support Group, Kalangala
Namugerwa	Information secretary, Parents Support Group, Kalangala
Nampija Florence	Member PSG, Kalangala
Hajat Hasifa Lutakome	Member PSG, Kalangala
Musiige Kasiim	Member PSG, Kalangala
Mary Obbo	Member PSG, Mukono
Perepetra Nanyombi	Member PSG, Mukono
Rebbecca Nabaggala	Member PSG, Mukono
Malala John	Member PSG, Mukono
Berunga Amooti	Member PSG, Kampala
Hajji Ismail Kakooza	Member PSG, Kampala
Mrs. Birungi Penina	Member PSG, Kampala
Mrs. Kagilita Rose	Member PSG, Kampala
Mrs. Amina Zimbe	Member PSG, Kampala
Benzinke James	Member PSG, Kampala
Nsubuga Sula	Artisans (Motor Mechanic)
Barigye Christopher	Artisan (Motor Cycle)
Musoke Wilson	Artisan (Tailoring)
Namatovu Haida	Artisan (Hairdressing)

CHILDREN INTERVIEWED/TRAINEES

Mukono

Muganwa Mulani
Namnara Rebecca
Nabukera Sophie
Nabagala Resty
Namagembe Prossy
Kibago Musa
Kiggundu Job
Nakate Florence
Kasolo Meddie
Ssali Japheth
Nakkazi Sarah

Kampala

Ndawula Ronald
Tamale Vicent
Namuwaya Evelyn
Nalweyiso Rachel
Bukonya David
Nanyondo Florence

Kalangala

Nakanjako Sylvia
Nasanga Rita
Tibibwa Florence
Katerega Joseph
Sselwanga Godfrey
Bukonya Fred
Sserubula Joseph

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (UYDEL)
BIFRO House Sir Apollo Kaggwa Road opposite Makerere Business Institute (MBI)
P.O. Box 12659 Kampala --Uganda
Tel: 256-041-530353 0772 47 01 90/0772 42 38 11 rkasirye@hotmail.com
Programs: Street Youth; drug and substance abuse; research; Family and Youth counseling;
Alternative development Projects; and public awareness campaigns

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT EVALUATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT IN KAMPALA, MUKONO AND KALANGALA DISTRICTS

1. Organizational background

UYDEL is a Non-governmental organization that was founded in 1993. Our vision is to see hard-to-reach vulnerable young people access friendly services that reduce the numbers and levels of marginalization and exploitation. Our mission is to empower disadvantaged and vulnerable young people with social cognitive life skills that will enable them lead a happy and meaningful life and become useful citizens of Uganda.

UYDEL provides youth and child friendly services at drop-in-centers and outreach posts located in Kampala District (Kawempe and Rubaga Divisions), Kalangala District (With the Uganda Police Force), Mukono District (Kitega and Nyenga areas), Busia District (Sophia A). UYDEL works with youth/children aged 10-24 years who are vulnerable to exploitation and consequently to HIV/AIDS specifically; Adolescent commercial sex workers and sexually abused children, Children affected by child labor, Street children, Youth and children affected by HIV/AIDS families, Youth and children from poor families.

2. The child protection project

This is a collaboration project between Uganda Youth development Link (UYDEL) and the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) of the Uganda Police Force, supported by the OAK Foundation since 2003.

The project goal is to contribute to the creation of an environment that recognizes, promotes and protects children's rights through promotion of resilience and child friendly services in the districts of Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala by end of 2007. The core project areas are awareness raising, capacity building and livelihood skills building. The primary target beneficiaries are children below 18 years who have been abused or are at risk of abuse and exploitation while the secondary beneficiaries are Police and law enforcement officers, parents, teachers, community workers, local leaders and other community members in general.

3. Terms of reference

This evaluation exercise is intended to assess and document the impact of the child protection project on children in Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala Districts

3.1 Objectives of the evaluation

1. To assess the extent to which the project objectives have been achieved and determine the impact it has created on the target population.
2. To assess the relevancy, effectiveness and efficiency regarding design monitoring and implementation and monitoring approaches of the project in addressing child protection issues.
3. To examine the different options for sustainability of the project and explore the capacities of stakeholders involved to sustain the child protection initiatives in the communities and to extend the same services to other underserved areas.
4. Document challenges, lessons learnt and suggest viable recommendations to guide future interventions

3.2 Specific tasks

1. Review available literature on child abuse and child protection and related interventions at national, District and NGO levels.
2. Interview key persons and institutions involved in child protection at different levels.
3. Conduct interviews and focus group discussions with different project stakeholders in the three districts to assess the impact of the project on beneficiaries and make suggestions for improvements.
4. Submit a draft report by 15th December 2007 for review by UYDEL
5. Finalize and submit a final copy of the evaluation by 20th December 2007.

3.3 Output

- The consultant shall submit an evaluation report in hard and soft copies to UYDEL.
- The project should include the following key issues:
- Review of existing literature on child abuse and child protection
- Analysis of the project and its impact on the primary and secondary beneficiaries
- Suggestions for sustainability and how the project can best reach beneficiaries.

3.4 Personal specifications

- Advanced degree in a relevant discipline
- Computer literate
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation of child protection project required
- Fluency in English and Luganda languages