

**UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK  
(UYDEL)**

**MINUTES FOR THE CSEC STUDY FINDINGS  
DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP, MASAHA HELD AT HOTEL  
BROVAD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**

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

## **AGENDA**

- Welcome remarks and introductions
- Over view of the study
- Lay out of the report
- General comments and discussions
- Way Forward
- Closing remarks

### **MIN 1/2011 WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Kasirye Rogers welcomed members to the CSEC dissemination workshop. He requested members to introduce themselves so as to know each other. He informed members that they were in the process of finalizing the report and therefore, the meeting was like feedback to them. In the report they were going to present, they had picked out issues directly affecting Lyantonde and Masaka. The final document will be sent to the district probation officers at the district who will give feedback. However, Mr. Kasirye Rogers and his team were hoping that they would come back for a bigger dissemination. He called upon Mr. Mutaawe Rogers to take members through the overview of the study.

### **MIN 2/2011 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY**

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

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

- Recruited 20 research assistants who were trained and participated in pre testing of the study tools that had been developed because there is no way any study can be done without these tools
- Data collection tools - Developed four (4) data collection tools
- Research assistants were divided into 4 groups depending on the distribution of the regions and each team had a supervisor to ensure quality of data collected
- Though this is a study done by UYDEL, the organization constituted a technical working group at the MoGLSD and this group is an advisory group. There was need of people who have experience in this field to make comments and give guidance
- Data collection methods used - In-depth interviews, Key Informant interviews, FGDs, Desk review literature, and key observations
- Areas covered - Northern region - Lira and Gulu, Eastern region - Mbale, Busia and Bugiri, Western region - Mbarara and Kasese, and Central region - Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Lyantonde, and Kalangala.
- Data coding, entry and analysis - There was a statistician from UBOs who did this
- Respondents - interviewed 529 children across all the regions though 89 inclined the interview
- Field challenges in data collection - in some areas, research assistants were denied information by CSEC victims and key informants. Older CSWs intercepted some research assistants because they wanted to know why some of the girls were being interviewed. Some of the children were willing to quit commercial sex but no resources put aside to help these children
- Lessons learnt - Building rapport with the study participant is very essential in the study in order for him / her to trust the researcher. Most children interviewed were not well informed about trafficking and this required more explanations to separate normal migration from trafficking. Disclosure of information considered private or concerning bed room matters is difficult

because of cultural issues. There is a lot of relapse among children; a lot of entry and exit.

### **General study findings**

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

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

He then presented the highlights of the study findings by study districts specifically Lyantonde and Masaka districts.

## **In Lyantonde District**

### **Child trafficking**

- Child traffickers connect silently with their contacts through a coordinated network.
- Traffickers target girls of 13 – 16 years who are in the primary level.
- Lyantonde town also serves as a transit and recruitment ground for child trafficking.
- The transport industry is a conduit and facilitators for child trafficking.

### **Child Prostitution**

- Many girls purportedly working as waitresses in lodges and bars are partly engaging in prostitution.
- There are many lodges compared to rented houses because of the existence of many truck drivers and the patrons who are mobile and do not need permanent residence for long.
- These girls are usually trafficked from inland Lyantonde like Kalangala while others come from Rakai, Masaka and Sembabule.
- Night watchmen work with exploiters to identify and connect them to young girls.
- Road constructors have also contributed to the increasing level of child prostitution by exploiting young girls by paying for sex acts.

### **Child Pornography**

- Pornography is mainly an urban phenomenon where children go to video halls to watch pornographic films.
- Freelance camera men encourage girls to take photos and this behavior appears to be spreading but girls do not know where the photos are taken.

## **In Masaka District**

- Masaka is a major source and transit point for children.
- Children are moved to places like Namirembe, Diimu, Mirambo, Bukakata, Lambu, Munpu and Kachanga landing sites and other islands within Kalangala
- Equal numbers of children move to the lakes and also to Kampala city for labour and sexual exploitation.
- Nyendo has several girls who serve in bars and dancing groups and many of these are involved in prostitution as well.
- Child prostitution is taking place in front of local leaders some of whom own bars and restaurants and view this as a normal practice of helping children.
- Using children is cheaper and they complain less compared to adults.
- Children are in situations of bonded labor and cannot move away from one employer to another.
- Strip dancing is picking up very fast.

## **Interventions to address CSEC**

- Child Restoration Outreach (CRO)
- Budukiro Children's Agency (Nyendo)
- Salama Shield
- Child Aid
- Love in Action (Masaka Town)

Many NGOs in Masaka and Lyantonde are reaching out to children.

## **Emerging Issues**

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

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

### **Recommendations**

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

### **Conclusions**

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

### **Further Research**

- How districts who set up bi – laws have managed to work
- Follow up children withdrawn from CSEC
- Bonded and forced labor around lake Victoria

### **MIN 3/2011 LAY OUT OF THE REPORT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 7 - Legal, policy and resource flow commitments; this looks at the legal framework which includes the International Instruments ratified and the National legislations, the policy frameworks in place which include the National OVC Policy,

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

Chapter 8 gives the Conclusions and recommendations of the report.

#### **MIN 4/2011 GENERAL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Members said it was good work done. However, the following issues needed attention.

- The study doesn't talk about boys in Masaka.
- There are two reasons that make Nyendo a center for trafficking problems
  - i) Rampant poverty in the villages where children are being sent to Nyendo for green pastures. Ever, the young people who come to collect grasshoppers do not go back. Grass hopper season acts as a catalyst to attract children. At the end of the season, the traffickers come to take the children.
  - ii) Orphanage; Orphans are mishandled by step parents and guardians
- Reduction of poverty should be included in the recommendations.
- In Mbirizi, Lukaya and Kyazanga, the magnitude of CSEC could be equal or higher than that of Lyantonde and yet, these places are not talked about in the study.
- In the recommendations, under the massive printing and dissemination of the TIP Act, 2009; add the dissemination of the Child Labor Policy too.
- In Masaka, there is a recent rampant trend where boys are assaulted by adults (both men and women).
- There is need to unblock data for Masaka, Lyantonde and Kampala such that members can have specific information on demographic characteristics.

- Under legislations, the Education Act, 2008 was omitted. Education is the key even if one wants to withdraw these children from CSEC.
- In the recommendations, capture the roles of the Local Governments because they have a role to play in combating CSEC. Although there is a personnel gap in Local Governments which should be taken care of, Local Governments can carry out inspections where these children are deployed. Local Governments should recruit labor officers to work in these areas.
- Need bi - laws that are firm and articulate good results.
- Recommendations should focus on the changes in development. We have to accept that things are changing. The more we develop, the more things change. So, recommendation 10 on strengthening social protection and family systems may not work well for that. We have to put in mind the fact that people are inter marrying and getting individualistic.
- Under trafficking and child prostitution, categorize factors into two, that is; (i) Pull factors and (ii) Push factors. For the purposes of the report, indicate this clearly.
- Under the recommendations, include the Adoption policy. This has worked well in European countries but it should also be introduced in Uganda.
- Forgot to mention / include parents on those recruiting children
- Emerging issues in Masaka -of recent, most children are trafficked from Tanzania and Rwanda
- Under the interventions to address CSEC in Lyantonde, one of the NGOs was written badly in the document. Rakai Community Based Association (RACOBAAO) as read in the document should instead be written as Rakai Community Based AIDS Association (RACOBAAO)
- Under the recommendations, nothing is talking about pornography. For example in the music industry and other things to deal with entertainment, there should be a body to check through before final publications of materials and these should be qualified people.

- Key players such as the police, probation officers, CDOs, local leaders, NGOs etc not coordinated. Collaboration and networking among key players is very important. This should be captured.
- Now that the report is almost ready, what next? Who is going to coordinate the report?
- Masses are not sensitized. They do not know what is going on. They should be sensitized about these issues.
- There is the issue of corruption. For example, children might be used in bars, restaurants and yet police is watching.
- Some of the organs who claim to be working for these children need to be looked into to find out whether they are working. Perhaps, some of them are being understaffed.
- The issue of drug abuse; Shops in Masaka are there where drugs are sold and children are always present in these shops. They know where to get these drugs and whom to sell to.
- We can't do away with Juveniles but where can we rehabilitate them. Government should rehabilitate these centers at regional level. There is only one in Kampiringisa. So, where should the rest of children be taken? Include this in the recommendations.
- The report should be presented to the Local Governments concerned because they have always been mis - represented.
- CDO's and Local Government Officers sometimes do not make use of their positions but they have the power and the money. They know these people in CSEC for example in trafficking and even their places of residence. Where they need help, they can request for more money
- There is need to move from a level of having numbers and think of ways of helping young people for example setting up a rehabilitation center. If an organization is doing a research, it should think of the practical side? UYDEL

should devise a method that is practical to help these children? (In Masaka and Lyantonde). Certain issues we can't wait, we have to act accordingly.

- Think about the causes of child abuse and family disputes.
- Come out with strategies that empower children themselves.
- In Lyantonde, instead of men chasing women, it is now women chasing men out of the houses. These are people known by names doing trafficking of children
- The report has to be practical and used in the day to day life
- Strategies on empowering children on where and how to report cases of commercial sexual exploitation. Some children do not know where to go when sexually exploited.
- How to report? Sensitization and public awareness need to be addressed and strengthened.
- Fear within the community for security reasons. People do fear to report. For example, when a man finds a girl sexually exploited, he might fear to report thinking that he might be asked whether he was also a customer.
- Look at the effects of this activity (CSEC) when the children are involved.
- How do we address the category of young people who do not fit in CRO and Budukiro Children Agency? Call all stake holders to brain storm on this.
- The document should be taken to the national level to support the work the organization is doing
- When is the dissemination of the final report?

### **Reactions to some of the comments**

The lead consultant, Mr. Kasirye responded to some of the comments as shown below;

- Boys in Masaka for example in Nyendo are locked inside shops. They work as askaris. They have to wait until their employers come back. So, it is hard to always get them because they are kept indoors guarding their masters' property. Besides, even if their employers are around, they sometimes hide them

- They are going to unblock data for Masaka, would ask the statistician (Mr. Senono Vicent) to do the data disaggregation.
- The office is not yet in place especially to address the trafficking issues but there is belief that the issues raised in the report will be worked upon.
- The information collected does not stay on paper but they are working closely with police, the department of labor, they hope to go to Parliament, and also work with the media. So, this responds to the concern of whether UYDEL has devised any practical method to help these children?
- The effects of children involvement in CSEC had been listed in the report.
- There is a plan for the dissemination of the final report.

## **MIN 5/2011 WAY FORWARD**

### **Masaka and Lyantonde**

- Coordination and Networking among the different key players.
- Presenting the report to the relevant Local Governments because most of them do not know these issues (District, Municipal and division discussions).
- Speed inquiry action in handling some of the cases for example trafficking.
- Planned meeting with religious leaders both at national and district level.

## **MIN 6/2011 CLOSING REMARKS**

The Probation officer Masaka thanked UYDEL for coming up with the report and the dissemination validation meeting. Many have agencies and individuals have done researches but they do not come back to give this feedback.

At the districts, they have introduced referral mechanisms for OVC service providers which they are about to launch. So, the probation officer noted that there was a bit of networking among key players.

Social workers from NGOs have been helpful especially in identifying children who have been abused.

For the recommendation on training of Child Rights Advocates, in Masaka, some NGOs like World Vision and Budukiro have child advocates. The Probation officer laid emphasis on taking these child advocates on board. There is need to train those who are already advocating.

The Probation officer officially closed the meeting at 1.00pm and members departed at will after lunch.