

# **UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (UYDEL)**



## **REPORT FOR THE CSEC STUDY FINDINGS DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP, BUGIRI HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2011**

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

**COMPILED BY**

**NAMBATYA SUSANNE**

**SOCIAL WORKER**

## **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. Mutaawe Rogers welcomed members to the CSEC dissemination workshop. He informed them that the purpose of the meeting was to disseminate the CSEC study findings and there after participants would give highlights of what issues were left out in the report. Before coming up with a concrete report, comments from different stake holders were needed. He requested members to introduce themselves so as to know each other. He then called upon Ms. Nambatya Susanne to take members through the overview of the study.

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

Ms. Nambatya Susanne 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; she 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**

Ms. Nambatya Susanne 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.

She then presented the highlights of the study findings by study districts specifically Mbale, Busia and Bugiri districts.

These 3 districts were covered during the study because they are located on the major road highway to Kenya and border points either by lake or land.

The border towns are major transit points along the great east road, characterized by massive rural – urban migration as people search for livelihoods in border trade.

These towns are also transit points to Kenya and a stopover for heavy commercial truck drivers who lure young girls into the commercial sex work.

Children are trafficked to these areas with promises of descent work and education but end up being exploited as domestic workers and others as child prostitutes

### **Child Prostitution**

An increased number of children (girls) engaging in prostitution due to poverty at household level, negative cultural practices, peer influence, and poor coordination among stakeholders with limited referrals.

Cases of child prostitution reported to authorities by parents or guardians of children are mainly for seeking economic gains from perpetrators rather than justice for the victims.

Cases of children in brothels have been documented though difficult to locate.

### **Child Trafficking**

Children in Bugiri district are trafficked mainly from Mukono, Mbale, Masaka and other parts of the country.

Many children are brought here by the so called “uncles and aunties” who are paid by the bar owners to identify and bring for them children to work in their businesses.

### **Child pornography**

Hidden and silent problem in the region

More pronounced in Mbale district where children watch blue movies from video halls in the evenings compared to the other districts.

Incidences of nude/karaoke dancing, nude photo taking, and engaging in group sex competitions were not visible in this region

### **Hot spots for CSEC**

- Wakaka landing site,
- Bumeeru landing site,
- Siguru Island,
- Kiyinikibi
- Butambula

- Naluwerere parish,
- Bugiri town council



*UYDEL social worker making a presentation during the workshop*

### **Good practices**

- Establishment of child protection committees in Lunyo, Busitema sub counties and Busia Municipal Council.
- Designing an integrated program model for implementation involving the co-operation of 12 district partners and stakeholders coming together to fight for children rights and protection in Busia district.
- World Vision has support for the construction of a building that will house the Family and Child Protection Unit of the police force; juvenile cells for both boys and girls.
- The Bugiri district OVC interventions are just taking off, with funding from by STAR-EC and UPIMAC. Each sub county has a CDO who is directly charged with children affairs.

### **Interventions to address CSEC**

- Women and Youth Services
- Bugiri Network of AIDS Service Organizations (BUNASO)
- The National Forum of PLHA Networks in Uganda
- Uganda Reproductive Health Bureau, Bugiri branch
- GOAL Uganda

- Local gov't offices (probation, CDO, Police, etc
- Police Family and Child protection Unit and district probation officer.
- World Vision.
- Happy Childhood Foundation (HCF)
- Red Cross Society.
- Friends of Christ Revival Ministries (FOC-REV)
- Organization for Capacity Building Initiative (OCABI)

NGOs are reaching out to children with school fees support, income generating activities, village savings loans, vocational skills, VCT services, psychosocial support (food, health and education).

- Housing improvement and awareness about children rights, and also reduce the vulnerability in homes.

### **Emerging Issues**

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

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

### **Recommendations**

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

### **Conclusions**

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

## **Further Research**

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

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

Mr. Mutaawe 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 needed attention

- Under National legislations where there is Local Government Act, the year is missing. It should be written as, “Local Government Act 1997 as amended 2006”
- Still under National legislations where there is the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, on the part of provisions, it should be ...under age 18 years not ...under 16 years as written in the document
- Members proposed that Tororo should be part of the Eastern region because there is CSEC just like Mbale, Busia and Bugiri
- There is a district that emerged from Bugiri district and that is Namayingo district and therefore some of the hot spots mentioned that were initially in Bugiri district are now in Namayingo district. These include; Siguru landing site, Bumeeru landing site, Busiro and Lugala
- Busoowa trading center has also emerged as a hot spot for CSEC in Bugiri district.
- Namayemba should be included in the hot spots; it is located along the highway
- In the hot spots mentioned in the document, there is “wakaka” landing site. This should be written as “wakawaka” landing site.
- Should recognize religious leaders e.g. Cardinal canons, Bishops, Sheiks
- The education system is not well represented. There is no follow up of children who drop out of school. How do we bridge the responsibilities in the education system; if a child drops out of school, how does the class head teacher come in to help? There is no follow up between parents and the class head teachers. There is a gap between the parents and the schools
- Child to teacher ratio is overwhelming. Teachers cannot monitor all children; that is why children pretend as if they are going to school but instead hang in the middle of the way and engage in activities like shoe shinning, siphoning of fuel etc to get some little money and at the end of the day, go back home as if they are from school.
- Stringent measures on schools. Some schools have relaxed on the protection of children.

- Some schools do not have structures fit to be schools and government is not looking at this.
- MOE should come up with a motivation on the part of teachers to be able to motivate the children and the parents.
- Since 2007, the Bugiri district OVC interventions have been on. UCOBAC is doing this with support from Canadian Feed the Children. IDAC is doing this with support from GOAL.
- STAR-EC supports HIV/AIDS, TB activities and stops on prevention and care.
- UPIMAC is not a funding agency. It is a technical support agency contracted by MoGLSD.
- OVC interventions supported by CSF and now getting support from HIV/AIDS Intervention Alliance; Sunrise is going to work hand in hand with CSF – supporting sub counties, divisions.
- OVC interventions should be strengthened.
- Most of the problems faced by children come as a result of child neglect (Poor parentage in communities).
- CDO's have no specialized knowledge in handling children affairs.
- In Bugiri district, some parents leave their children to live on their own at the age of 15 years. Parents live in villages and children come to town to find quality education.
- Have children from Kenya and they are in a free range system. In the recent period, they had covered Naluwerere. Whenever you could move, you could find a Kenyan child. Truck drivers bring these girls, rent for them places where to stay such that whenever this truck driver is passing this place, they meet. When the truck driver is away, this girl continues in commercial sex for survival
- Government should come up with reformatory schools / centers to support children who have undergone trauma (can give psycho social support to these children
- Other Interventions to address CSEC in Bugiri District

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Integrated Development Activities and Concern (IDAC) AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV prevention, care and support</li> <li>• OVC programmes</li> <li>• Child protection</li> <li>• BCC sessions</li> </ul>

Uganda Muslim Rural Development Association (UMUDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV prevention, care and support</li> <li>• OVC programmes</li> <li>• Child protection</li> <li>• BCC sessions</li> </ul>
Uganda Community Association for Child Welfare (UCOBAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child welfare (holistic child development)</li> <li>• Does a lot of child advocacy</li> </ul>
Veterans Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of OVC's to be put in social security</li> </ul>
National Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (NACWOLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV counseling and testing services</li> </ul>
Bugiri District Union for People with Disabilities (BUDUPED) – Being funded by GOAL - Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child protection</li> <li>• HIV counseling</li> <li>• Sustainable livelihood</li> </ul>
Naluwerere Community Based Development Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization of the community on HIV/AIDS through drama shows</li> </ul>
Multi - Community Based Development Initiatives (MUCOBAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV/AIDS information and awareness</li> <li>• Child Protection</li> <li>• OVC programmes</li> </ul>

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

Mr. Mutaawe Rogers told members that the final document would be sent to the district probation officers at the district who will give feedback. He therefore requested members to properly write down their emails

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

The CAO gave the closing remarks. He thanked UYDEL for conducting the study and have the results disseminated. The findings were relevant and realistic to the situations in Bugiri. He noted the following;

- ✓ Bugiri town council and Bugiri district is suffering greatly from CSEC and they are planning a meeting with all the stake holders in the area to see how they can try to curb down this problem.
- ✓ On the issue of bi-laws as mentioned in the recommendations, as a district, they have had a lot of ordinances. For example, the environment ordinance of 2005; they are trying to ensure that the education ordinance is in place

- ✓ There is too much freedom given to children in line with the legislations in place
- ✓ Child Protection needs to be linked with other factors (HIV/AIDS, Poverty)
- ✓ At the local level, there is need to foster a spirit of voluntarism because in most cases, resources may never be enough
- ✓ On strengthening family social structures, women need to re think of woman emancipation
- ✓ Naluwerere is not a parish, it is a trading center. So, instead of using Naluwerere parish as it appears in the document, it should instead be written as Naluwerere Trading Center
- ✓ The problem of CSEC is as a result of unchecked school drop outs
- ✓ There is need to make UPE and USE compulsory

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