

**Towards Elimination of Child Trafficking in order to  
Effectively Address Child Abuse,  
Exploitation and Neglect**

**AN ACTION ORIENTED RESEARCH ON  
CHILD TRAFFICKING IN  
KENYA, ETHIOPIA, UGANDA AND TANZANIA**

**BY ANPPCAN UGANDA**

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**David Kyaddondo**

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## Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANPPCAN	African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children Against Neglect
CT	Child Trafficking
ECOAS	Economic Commission of west African States
HIV	Human Immune-Deficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
SPR &R	Strategic Public Relations and Research
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VIPP	Visualisation in Participatory Planning

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## Executive summary

Trafficking of children is one of the most severe violations of human rights in the world today, involving over a million children worldwide. There are many consequences of trafficking children, which in their worst form may lead to death or complete disappearance of the victim. Yet still little is known about this reality, especially given the fact that the practice is often hidden. In recognition of lack of adequate information on this heinous problem, ANPPCAN to commission this study focus on existing awareness of the CT, community perceptions of the problem and their experiences of the CT. The overall objective is to gain a thorough understanding of the existing situation on child trafficking in four countries in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia to guide development of advocacy strategies and formulation of programmes to effectively respond to the problem.

This was a cross-sectional and descriptive action oriented study conducted at household level using face-to-face interviews. It combined both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis, and was carried out in four Eastern Africa countries used as a proxy representative of the Eastern Africa region. This was based on the assumption that the practice of child trafficking in one country is unlikely to vary greatly from another. The study was conducted at three border posts of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. These included Moyale (Kenya and Ethiopia), Busia (Kenya and Uganda), and Loitokitok (Kenya and Tanzania), which were purposively selected because were perceived to be the routes taken in the process of trafficking children. A total sample of 314 children and 1181 adults were selected for the structured interviews, in addition to qualitative methods such as case studies, VIPP, Key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

This study has revealed a general acceptance by both community level and some government officials of the existence of the problem of child trafficking in all the four countries. Despite knowledge on the existence of the problem, there were some misconceptions about the concept of ‘child trafficking’ among both different people. Child trafficking is perceived as both a problem and a beneficial activity. Several children and adults acknowledged that this vice has some tangible and beneficial interest to those trafficked and their families, a matter that may promote its existence. In as much as some informants exaggerated the act of child trafficking “as a normal thing”, the act is not openly done but several times done secretly. This study could not come up with exact figures, but many of the respondents (1/3 of adults and, 15% of children) knew or at least had ever heard of a child who was trafficked. Yet it is possible that many children are trafficked without being reported.

Children from social and economically vulnerable families, particular girls are known to be more at risk of trafficking. Being orphans exposes children to the risk of trafficking with no hope of getting any support from relatives. Similarly, children from poor families are at high risk of being trafficked. This is closely associated with the fact that trafficked children are often expected to be a source of income to their families.

Children were mentioned to have been trafficked within their countries and across borders. Kenya was cited as the main destination of trafficked children within the region compared to Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. Most trafficked children reportedly end up in urban centres possibly due to availability of employment opportunities where employers seek cheap labour. A trafficking process or network involves different actors including victims, users and traffickers. Parents and other relatives may sometimes be involved, as may decide to make available their child for trafficking. Children are also active agents who may connive with traffickers with the aim of helping them get to the targeted children.

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Promises by agents, of better lives, schooling, employment and desire independence draw children from their communities or countries of origin to communities or countries of destination. On the other hand, poverty exacerbates child trafficking as the unfavourable living conditions and lack of basic necessities, force children to leave their homes in search for better lives. Trafficked children are involved in various activities which include; domestic work, mainly done by girls across destinations, restaurant and bar work, sex trade, or child prostitution. And many of the trafficked children experience a lot of physical, social, and mental suffering. Meanwhile, qualitative and quantitative data revealed that very few trafficked children are recovered and re-united with families.

Unfortunately, there is lack of awareness and sometimes child trafficking is considered by communities as a normal practice. This lack of full understanding and awareness, which exists among those supposed to protect children, increases the vulnerability. Yet lack of specific policies and laws makes it difficult to protect the children. Yet even the existing ones are in draft or even not fully enforced and implemented.

Nevertheless, there is optimism regarding the potential to address the problem emanating from the presence of government structures and agencies willing to engage in activities that address the problem. This provides a good opportunity for interventions. There are some CSOs are already working at community level are doing some work such as related to deal with poverty, education and other interventions that address the root causes (push factors) of trafficking. Although most of these are at small scale level and not directly stimulated by the trafficking problem, if beefed up with some awareness on the problem, this potential can be better exploited and activities enhanced.



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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The trafficking of children is one of the most severe violations of human rights in the world today, involving over a million children worldwide. It is estimated that over 1.2 million children are annually trafficked externally and internally (UNICEF, 2003). The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that at any given time, 12 million men, women, and children worldwide are deceived or coerced into forced and bonded labor, involuntary servitude, and sexual slavery (Misra, 2007). Different reasons have been identified to explain the increasing incidences of child trafficking, that include poverty, reducing levels of provision of social services especially in developing countries, globalization and HIV/AIDS, which has left many children orphaned and thus vulnerable to exploitation (UNICEF 2003; ANPPCAN, 2006; Omolo et. al., 2006).

There are many consequences of trafficking children, which in their worst form may lead to death or complete disappearance of the victim. Children may be physically damaged, get mentally deranged, and denied access to basic services including education and often times de-linked from their families. Some trafficked children may suffer the problem of dependency, may resort to drugs and particularly girls may be trapped in sexual exploitation and may suffer other forms of violence. Victims of trafficking are generally isolated within the destination countries, where they have no social ties and are often unable to speak the local language and fearful of approaching the authorities. As raised in an ANPPCAN workshop in Nairobi (ANPPCAN, 2006), traffickers take advantage of their vulnerability and usually maintain the isolation of victims in order to prevent them from creating contacts or relationships with the local population.

Nevertheless, in recent years child trafficking has gained visibility as a major violation of children's rights and it is a priority concern for the many local and international agencies in Africa that fight for the rights of children. According to a survey conducted by Inocenti – UNICEF (2003), trafficking is a recognised problem in at least 49 per cent of African countries. The study acknowledges that child trafficking is usually perceived as more severe than trafficking adults including women. In East and Southern Africa trafficking is identified as a problem in some 33 per cent of countries (UNICEF, 2003). Eastern Africa countries recognize that child trafficking is a problem.

The recognition of human trafficking as a problem has resulted in a considerable response in form of activities to combat the problem over the past years. For example, there are various instruments, and interventions that are geared towards protecting and preventing child trafficking. These among others the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Palermo Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Similarly, UNICEF Innocent – held a Summit, in 2000 in Cairo, agreed to address the dimension of Democracy, Human Rights and Good Governance as one of its priority areas and to prepare an Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children. There has been increasing political awareness regarding the phenomenon, as illustrated by the adoption of international standards and important commitments undertaken in international conferences. A foundational African commitment to combat trafficking is found in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990).

In 2002, the African Union reaffirmed its commitment to combat trafficking during the ordinary session of its Labour and Social Affairs Commission, which identified the elimination of child trafficking as an operational priority. There was also a Declaration as well as the Plan of Action adopted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in December 2001 and the Plan of Action adopted in Libreville in December 2000 by the Sub-Regional Consultation on the Development of Strategies to Fight Child Trafficking for Exploitative Labour Purposes in West and Central Africa. Initiatives such as these as well as developments in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) give grounds for encouragement regarding anti trafficking initiatives in Africa.

In the eastern region, The African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), has been advocating and implementing interventions especially those of awareness creation to prevent and protect children against trafficking. For example, in Kenya in 2005-2006, ANPPCAN implemented a pilot project for "social mobilization against child trafficking for domestic work and sexual exploitation". Moreover, ANPPCAN recognizes that reliable, objective and disaggregated data is instrumental in this regard. In 2006, ANPPCAN conducted a study Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania about child trafficking, whose findings were presented in a dissemination workshop in Nairobi in August 2006. Conversely, ANPPCAN Regional, in 2007 commissioned a Strategic Public Relations and Research Limited (SPR&R) to undertake media monitoring on her behalf on various issues touching on children, including child trafficking, which among other things SPR&R is required to compile radio, television and newspaper clips as well as a monthly report detailing the coverage of the issues in the media. Apparently, child trafficking was among the areas that received least media report (SPR&R series 2007).

Yet still little is known about this reality, especially given the fact that the practice is often hidden. The recognition of having scanty information on this heinous problem prompted ANPPCAN to commission this study focus on existing awareness of the CT, community perceptions of the problem and their experiences of the CT. The few studies conducted on CT have often times focused on the policy, leaving out the community as well as the children who are victims of the problem.

## **1.2 Objectives**

The overall objective is to gain a thorough understanding of the existing situation on child trafficking in four countries in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia to guide development of advocacy strategies and formulation of programmes to effectively respond to the problem.

### **Specific objectives were to:**

- a) Assess the existing knowledge on child trafficking in targeted communities in the four countries.
- b) Examine the nature and extent of trafficking in the targeted communities in the four countries.
- c) Describe factors that contribute and sustain child trafficking in the targeted communities in the four countries.
- d) Identify and document existing organizations and networks that are currently working in child trafficking in the four countries
- e) Identify potential programmes and resources in the targeted communities that can be used to address child trafficking.
- f) Identify good practices in addressing the problem of child trafficking that could be scaled up or replicated.

### **1.3 Definition of Child trafficking**

This study adopted The Palermo Protocol which includes a specific definition of trafficking in children: *“Trafficking in children shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”*.

## 1.4 Methodology

### 1.4.1 Research design

This was a cross-sectional and descriptive action oriented study conducted at household level using face-to-face interviews. It combined both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis. The study was carried out in four Eastern Africa countries used as a proxy representative of the Eastern Africa region, since it is assumed that the practice of child trafficking in one country is unlikely to vary greatly from another, or at least countries would influence each other.

The study was multi staged and was conducted in two phases with the first phase being the qualitative hence allowing awareness creation on child trafficking, alliance building including formation of inter-sectoral committees as the study was progressing. Phase one further informed the design of instruments for the second phase. The second phase which was mainly quantitative focussed more on collection of information that was mainly a triangulation and verification of the findings from the first phase.

### 1.4.2 Study area

The study was conducted at three border posts of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. These included Moyale (Kenya and Ethiopia), Busia (Kenya and Uganda), and Loitokitok (Kenya and Tanzania). The border areas were purposively selected because the situational analysis study indicated that they had the highest incidences of trafficking or were perceived to be the routes taken by child traffickers and trafficked children. All the borders are known for high transient population, being active in cross-border trade and other petty activities known to require child labour.

### 1.4.3 Study Population

The study population included both children and adults. Inclusion was of children below 18 years but above 12 years who could express themselves and share their knowledge and experiences about trafficking. Adults included household heads or their spouses who were interviewed using a structured questionnaire, as well as duty bearers such as police and customs officials who provided qualitative information.

### 1.4.4 Sample size

A total sample of 314 children and 1181 adults were selected for the structured interviews, distributed as below:

**Table 1: Distribution of Sample size by Country**

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Adults</b>
Country	Percentage (n=314)	Percentage (n=1181)
Kenya	51.6	25.8
Uganda	15.9	23.5
Tanzania	16.6	25.3
Ethiopia	15.9	25.4

More respondents were obtained from Kenya because it borders all the other three countries on the respective towns perceived to be with the highest prevalence of child trafficking. Conversely, available literature already indicated Kenya as the main destination of trafficked children.

### **1.4.5 Sampling procedure**

Being a participatory study, sampling of study sites for field visits was guided by respective ANPPCAN country office staff from each of the four countries of study. The idea was to visit those communities that were perceived as most severely affected (i.e., border communities) by child trafficking. Both points of origin and destinations were considered in each respective country during the sampling process.

Respondents of qualitative interviews were purposively selected. They included officials manned with the responsibility of protecting children such as immigration officials and the police, court officials, local and religious leaders. Other informants were those categories of people assumed to be with some information about the process of trafficking such as border transporters (e.g., cyclists) and border traders.

### **1.4.6 Data collection Methods**

This is a one year phased study, implemented by the respective ANPPCAN country offices who collected data in phases. The study adopted a participatory approach, where the staff of the four study countries were supported by a consultant to conduct the study.

The first phase of the study was to get a general overview of the situation of child trafficking, what people know about it, their perceptions towards it and if they are aware of any existing policies, laws and program interventions to alleviate the problem. This first phase used primarily qualitative methods, which aided in generating important themes, which were later used to develop a questionnaire. Nevertheless, a number of methods were used for data collection which included:

#### *Documents review*

Review of documents preceded and coincided with the primary data collection. Review of child trafficking related documents from the four countries served two purposes: to generate themes that informed the study structure as well as providing valuable input in the process of designing research tools. Among the key documents reviewed include study reports and international conventions. It had been anticipated that records from different stakeholders such as customs offices, police, social services departments and other relevant sources would also be reviewed. This was intended to provide supplementary information on the extent of the problem (at least of identified cases), characteristics of the victims, their original places of origin just to mention but a few.

#### *Media reports*

In Kenya the frequency and manner of media reporting of child abuse cases including child trafficking were investigated through a 4-month media monitoring exercise from June to September 2007. The monitoring of media reporting was done for the major radio stations, screen and print media.

### *Key Informant Interviews:*

These were to be conducted with the stakeholders such as police, customs officials, staff of other government departments responsible for protection of children such as those from social welfare. At least 38 key informants (16 were interviewed from Kenya, about 7 in Ethiopia, 7 in Uganda and 8 in Tanzania) were interviewed using structured questionnaires. They included police officers and commissioners, immigration officers, children officers, labour officers, court magistrates, probation officers, international agencies like UNODC, UNICEF and IOM; non-governmental organizations and faith-based organizations. These interviews were used to provide an in-depth understanding of the perceptions of the problem, its magnitude, causes as well as the existing interventions.

### *Visualization in Participatory Planning (VIPP)*

The VIPP - idea card method was used to explore the knowledge and perception of the problem of child trafficking by key officials such as custom officials, police and staff of child care agencies. This was done in the preliminary stages of data collection in all the study sites. Six (6) sessions of consultations (two at each border point) were held for visualization in participatory planning (VIPP) process. Participants at the VIPP sessions were drawn from different organizations and government departments in the districts. The forums were not just used in information gathering on child trafficking, but also as strategic forums to raise awareness and share experiences on child trafficking amongst the different stakeholders. These forums were also used for advocacy with strategic partners whose combating child trafficking was not part of their performance indicators such as immigration officers.

### *Focus Group Discussions*

These were conducted with community leaders and members, teachers and some children in all the four study sites. A total of thirty three (33) focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted in the region. Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia held at least 4 sessions each, for parents, children, teachers, and business people. Kenya undertook 9 focus group discussions in Busia, 8 in Loitoktok and 4 in Moyale. Tactical informal discussions were held with groups of house helps in Busia Kenya, cross-border cyclists at the three border towns and even some brokers at Moyale and Busia borders. An estimate of 300 persons participated in the focus group discussions.

The focus group discussions unveiled cases for follow-up and as a result 31 case studies and narratives were done in the four countries, mostly with child survivors of trafficking.

### *Structured Interviews:*

These were conducted with 1181 adults and 314 children (using two different sets instruments respectively). This provided quantitative data on the demographic and social characteristics of households that have been affected by or involved in child trafficking.

Two sets of quantitative questioners were developed for children and adults. The survey targeted a total of 1,500 respondents in the region; 1,200 adults and 300 children. At each border point Kenya targeted 100 adults and 50 children and the neighbouring country 300 adults and 50 children. A total of 1181 adult and 314 children respondents were interviewed as follows:

**Table 2: Distribution of sample size by border regions**

<b>Border Region</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Total</b>
Moyale	Kenya	101	55	<b>156</b>
	Ethiopia	300	50	<b>350</b>
Busia	Kenya	103	57	<b>160</b>
	Uganda	277	50	<b>327</b>
Loitoktok / Rombo	Kenya	101	50	<b>151</b>
	Tanzania	299	52	<b>351</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1181</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>1495</b>

Due to the illegal nature of trafficking the household survey may not have given the exact extent, but gave an indication. The structured interviews were also used in identifying the knowledge, awareness and practices by different communities regarding aspects of child trafficking among men and women.

#### *Case stories and narratives*

The transience nature of families in trafficking demanded tracing and following up of cases, and thus development of case stories. These were sought from respondents both adults and children who had experienced the problem of trafficking, from those who witnessed children being trafficked, as well as the literature from the various countries. Child trafficking narratives were sought with the purpose of providing an insight into the circumstances under which children are trafficked, how the practice is conducted such as how it starts, how children are transported, as well as the persons involved. Case studies were also intended to inform advocacy at community level right away and attract media for national level advocacy. It was therefore imperative to have the national coordinators not only being trained on action oriented research, but also taking lead in coordinating the research data collection to help generate action points, while building capacities in ANPPCAN.

#### **1.4.7 Quality Control and Data management**

Overall the team was led by a social scientist/anthropologist with previous experience of conducting child related studies. Country officers were trained on the methodology to ensure they are all conversant with the task at hand. Both qualitative and quantitative instruments were reviewed by the different team members to ensure quality. At each level of review, necessary changes were made. All data collected from the various countries was entered in one central place to avoid variations while qualitative data was word processed for easy handling.

#### **1.4.8 Data Analysis**

Quantitative data was entered and analyzed using computer soft ware SPSS. The data was entered from a central data management point using SPSS computer package and various outputs generated. At the **univariate** stage, the frequency tables and distributions were used to elicit Information on the respondents' background characteristics such as education level, occupation, marital status, age, and social economic factors such as employment. The survey outcome justified the qualitative findings in making informed deductions and realistic recommendations.

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On the other hand, qualitative data was manually analyzed after being word processed. This process involved reading and skimming through for identification of emerging themes, coding identified themes, extraction and merging of similar themes, identification of quotes for illustrations as well as integration of qualitative and quantitative data according to study objectives. It is from this that the report was developed.

#### **1.4.9 Ethical Considerations**

Local community leaders were informed about the study to allay any fears and suspicions. Local leaders were also used as mobilizers and field guides during the process of data collection. During the actual data collection, a verbal informed consent was sought from all respondents after explaining to them the purpose of the study and assurance of confidentiality. After talking to parents/guardians, consent was sought from them to speak with the children, but separate from their parents. However, verbal consent was also sought from the children before interviewing them, after assuring them of privacy and confidentiality. For narratives, pseudonyms were used to protect the identity of those children whose life stories and trafficking experiences were given.

## 2.0 Findings

### 2.1 Social Demographic Characteristics of respondents

The vulnerability to trafficking of children is greatly determined by their social and economic situation and that of the households in which they live. The social and demographic characteristics would also influence awareness or not and perceptions of the problem of child trafficking. It is therefore, important that this context is described before analyzing the specifics of child trafficking such as places of origin and destinations of the victims.

**Table 3: Background Characteristics of the children**

<b>Age of child at last birth day</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
10 and below	15	4.8
11 – 15	165	53.0
16 – 20	70	41.3
Don't know	3	2.0

<b>Currently in school</b>		
Yes	241	76.8
No	73	23.2

<b>Primary occupation</b>		
Peasant-subsistence farmer	8	11.9
Unskilled labour	28	41.8
Skilled labour	5	7.5
Trader	14	20.9
Unemployed	12	17.9

As evident in the above table, majority of children interviewed were in the age ranges of 11 – 15 years, with a mean age of 15 years, and standard deviation 2. The minimum age was 9 years, while the maximum was 19 years.

Over two-thirds of the above mentioned children (76.8%) were in school at time of the survey as shown in table 3 above. While for those that were not in school at the time of the survey, majority were in some form of employment, mainly as unskilled labourers, followed by petty trade as illustrated in the above table.

**Table 4: Background Characteristics of the Adults**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18 - 27 years	254	21.5
28 - 37 years	375	31.8
38 - 47 years	337	28.5
48 - 57 years	156	13.2
58 and above years	59	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1131</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Marital status</b>		
Not married	185	17.7
Married monogamous	729	61.7
Married polygamous	117	9.9
Divorced/ separated	64	5.4
Widowed	86	7.3

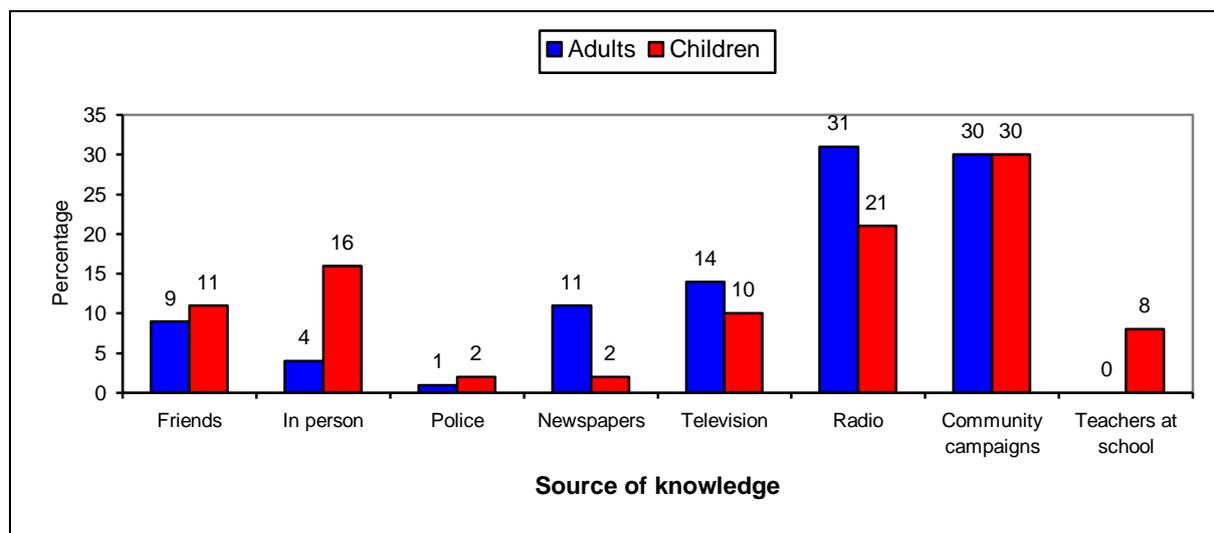
<b>Occupation</b>		
Peasant or subsistence farmer	274	23.5
Unskilled labour	204	17.5
Skilled labour	143	12.3
Professional	193	16.6
Trader	301	25.9
Student	19	1.6
Unemployed	6	.5
House wife	24	2.1

About two-thirds (60%) of the adult responses were aged between 28 - 47 years, with about the same number in monogamous marriage as evident in table 4 above. About a quarter of the respondents had their main occupation as traders as illustrated in the same table above.

## **2.2 Knowledge of Existence of Child Trafficking**

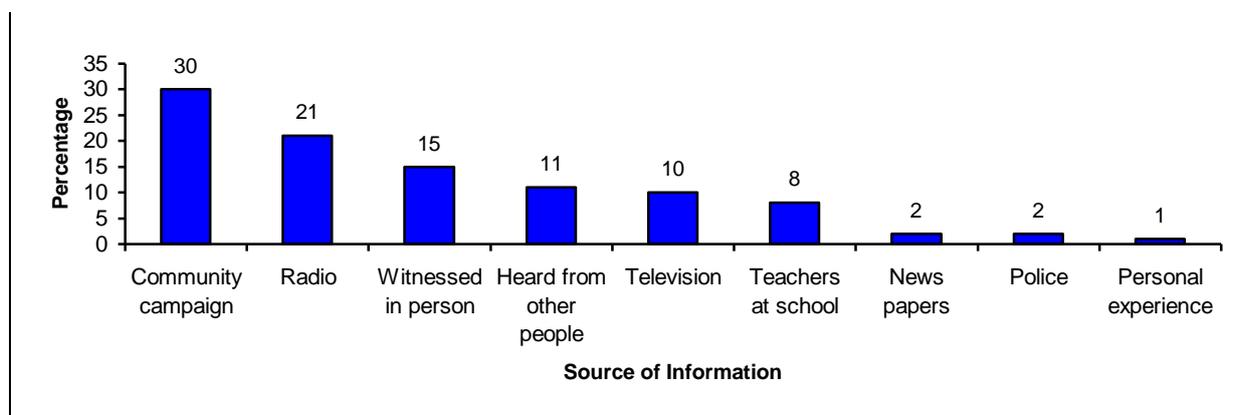
There is general acceptance of the existence of the problem of child trafficking in all the four countries. The level of knowledge however differed from person to person both at community level and by duty bearers. Apparently more children (80%) displayed more knowledge on the existence of the problem in their community as compared to adults (38%). It is possible that children gather information on trafficking in school and from their fellow children who have been victims of the vice. As a result they end up more exposed in this area. This is reflected in the variations in sources of this knowledge reported by adult and children respondents as illustrated in figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Sources of knowledge for by adults and children**



From the above figure, it is evident that the media plays a major role in creating awareness on Child trafficking with 56% learning about child trafficking from (TV, radio and News papers). The varying percentage of TV and newspapers can be attributed to access and affordability issues. The small (2.3%) contribution by News papers can however be attributed to the limited access to Newspapers among children as well as the possibility of poverty or high illiteracy levels of parents hence not buying news papers. Similarly, data from media monitoring in Kenya indicates that child trafficking was among the least reported form of child abuse in news papers. The media was followed by community campaigns with 30% and 9% being friends. The police was noted to be the lowest with only 1%. This probably indicates that police has not yet dedicated its efforts in sensitization towards curbing child trafficking It was also observed that there does not seem to be much interaction among teachers and children hence the need to strengthen the link. This is clearly evident in the 1% reported case as illustrated in figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: Sources of Information on Child trafficking by Children**



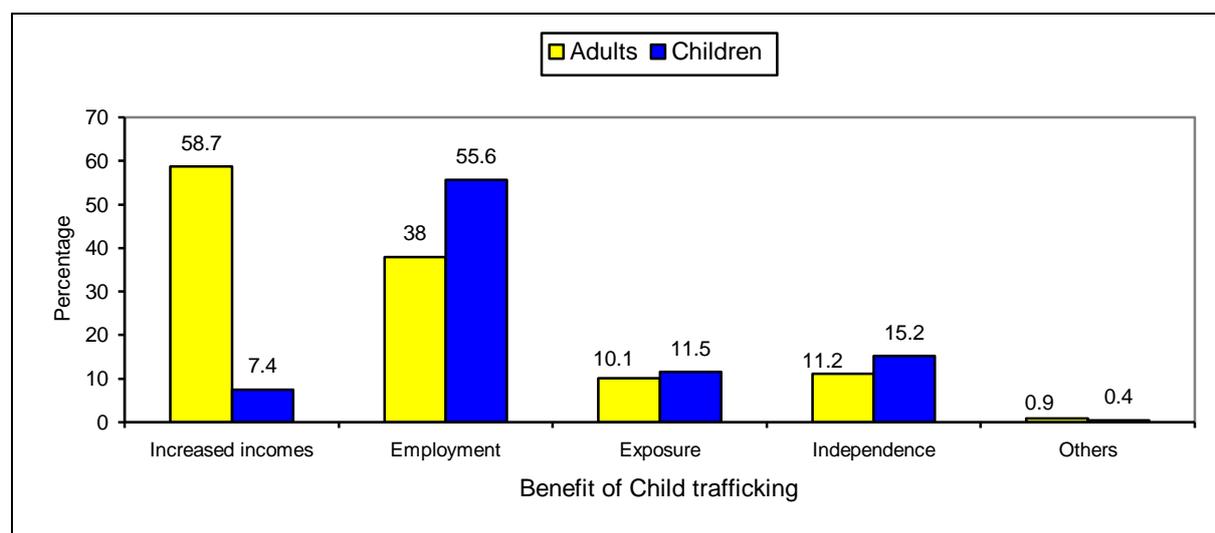
In all countries, key informants acknowledged child trafficking as a problem but further indicated that cases are often not documented. Since the movement of children across and within borders is not appropriately recorded, there was a general concern of lack of statistics and thus the extent not easily appreciated.

### 2.2.1 Perceptions of the problem

Despite knowledge on the existence of the problem, there were some misconceptions about the concept of ‘child trafficking’ among both household respondents and some of the key informants. Some key informants for example focused on the general issues of child abuse including child labour, female genital mutilation, rape, defilement and incest when mentioning trafficking. These do not define trafficking per se although they may be consequences.

Meanwhile, child trafficking is perceived as both a problem and a beneficial activity by different categories of people discussed with. While children and adults acknowledged that child trafficking can lead to problems such as death of the trafficked children (21% - children); child exploitation (48%- children) several children and adults concurred that this vice has some tangible and beneficial interest to those trafficked and their families inclusive as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 3: Perceived benefits of Child trafficking**



Child trafficking is considered by both adults and children as economically beneficial, through -increased incomes and employment by trafficked children. Apparently almost all parents (97 %) perceived child trafficking to be economically beneficial. This perception is likely to increase the risk of parents participating in the trafficking of their children in anticipation of benefits. This affirms the statements of the immigration officers from the study countries that trafficked children are contributing to the household incomes. As a result, the act tends to be regarded ‘as normal’ because it is a means of seeking survival. Conversely, some authorities considered the children who are trafficked, as ‘interested parties’ as noted by some immigration officers in Uganda and Kenya.

*“Sometimes it’s hard to tell who is being trafficked because the children are also interested parties. They therefore act as if they know the people taking them very well with no signs that they are actually being trafficked”* **Police officer Uganda**

*“With the high levels of poverty in the study countries, it is widely known that some children contribute to the household incomes and some of the ways they can do this is through work. This makes it hard for the law enforcers to imagine that all children in labour were trafficked children”* **Respondent in Kenya**

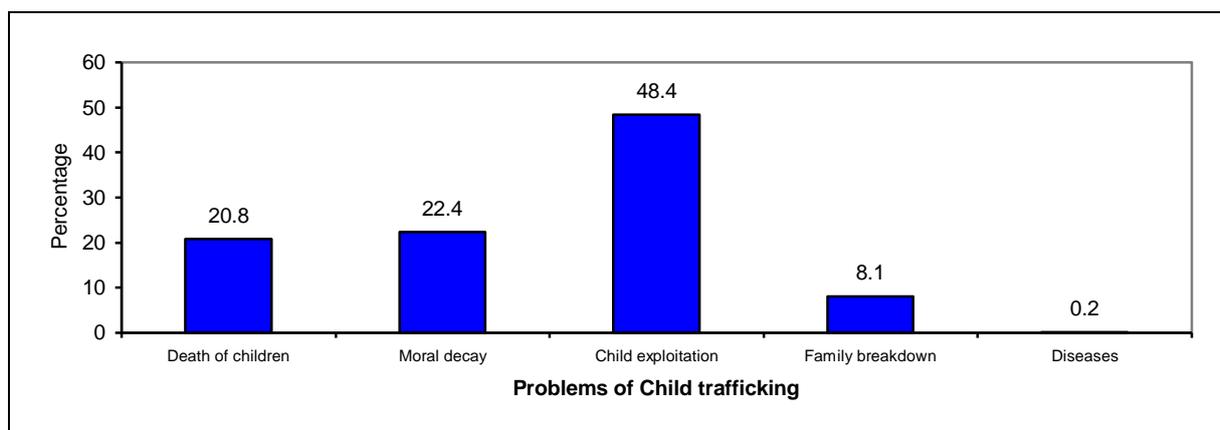
*With the HIV/AIDS scourge, there are many children heading households while others are living with frail care takers where they take care of them as opposed to the children being taken care of. In such situations, older children are expected to support their siblings and the care takers who are usually grandparents thus engaging in labour which sometimes leads to trafficking of such children when in search for employment”* **Probation officer Uganda**

The above statements show that sometimes children are also parties not because of choice but by design given the fact that they are expected to meet their own needs, the needs of their siblings as well as their care takers especially in cases where they are elderly and frail or chronically poor that the children have to inevitably support them by engaging in work to raise income. In such situations trafficking is seen as one of the processes that they undergo to get jobs.

Addressing such problems would require social protection interventions targeting children heading households and those living with frail and chronically ill care takers to enable them meet the costs of basic needs and social services for them and their dependants.

Nevertheless, children acknowledged that child trafficking has various problems. Out of the 442 responses from children, 48% reported child exploitation, 22% reported moral decay of trafficked children as these children may pick socially unacceptable behaviour from their new location, while 21% reported that it may sometimes lead to death of children. Family breakdown was only reported by 8% as illustrated in the figure below

**Figure 4: Problem of Child trafficking reported by adults**



It is worth noting that child trafficking possibly continues to happen in communities, not because people are ignorant of its negative consequences but perhaps because of economic needs and expectations.

## 2.3 Nature and extent of the problem

“... here in Tarakea, child trafficking is a normal thing. We have taken it as part of our daily normal lives” **Key informant Moyale- Ethiopia**

One of the objectives of the study was to assess the nature and extent of child trafficking in the four study countries. Key issues explored under this objective were the magnitude of the problem of trafficking children as known or experienced by the different people, the categories of children who are victims of or at risk of being trafficked, as well as common countries of origin and destinations of trafficked children. The above statement from Moyale is a good indicator of the high existence of the act of child trafficking to a level that it has even been normalised

*Agnes Mayoka (not real name) aged 15 years old from Entarara village, Rombo division, got lured by a woman neighbour during the funeral preparations of her mother. Agnes was to escape and be taken to Nairobi where she was to be linked to another woman in Ongata Rongai-Nairobi as a domestic servant. Agnes disappeared immediately after the burial. Agnes's father reported the case to Anne Mumo a Volunteer Children Officer in Loitokitok who sent the girl's father to Rombo District Officer for assistance. Coincidentally, after some days, Agnes's teacher met her at Nyamakima bus stage (Nairobi). Agnes lied to her teacher that she had been sent by her father to her aunt who lives in Ongata Rongai. This was not the case as Agnes was working in Ongata Rongai as a maid by then.*

*After three weeks had elapsed and the teacher had not yet seen Agnes in school, he decided to pay a visit and inquire why Agnes has taken so long in Nairobi yet the school was still in session. Agnes's father indicated to the teacher that he has no sister in Nairobi and that he has not been aware of the where about of his daughter. The father later on gathered information that his neighbour was responsible for the disappearance of Agnes. He reported the same to Rombo DO who duly summoned the suspect. Eventually, the suspect asked Agnes's employer in Ongata Rongai to return the child recovering Agnes.*

*A child aged 16 arrived to Moyle two month ago. She came from Aleta Wendo. Earlier she was in Awasa visiting here relatives. From there brokers (child Trafficking) sent her to Wendo Basha region for work. She was a waitress in one pastry for three months, but was never paid. Then she decided to give up the job and looked for another work as a maid in private house. However, she was abused and forced to quit. Finally, with her three friends, she went to Moyle to find a job and now she is working as a waitress in Ghion Hotel in Moyale. About her future, she hopes to work and save some money so that she can help educate her brothers and sisters. However, in Moyle, brokers are trying to convince her to go to Kenya, that there is better work for a better pay.*

*“..... I have seen with my own eyes a young boy who was taken from Tanzania to Kenya, he was begging in streets and took collected money to his boss. In my village kamwanga there is a woman whose two children were missing I advised her to go the report to the police station but she was reluctant” **Key informant Moyale- Tanzania***

The above cases may not tell us the extent in terms of numbers but they give good evidence that the problem of child trafficking is real in the four study countries.

In as much as some informants exaggerated the act of child trafficking “ as a normal thing”, it is evident that the act is not openly done but hidden. There are full of lies and trickery in the process of trafficking children as illustrated in Agnes’s case above. It is therefore difficult to get exact on the magnitude of the problem. While the methods employed in this action research enabled to unearth some forms and consequences of the practice, this may simply be a tip of the iceberg of this horrible practice. Similarly, the study was conducted in an area already identified to have widespread acts of child trafficking following a rapid assessment, which enabled identification of several cases. It is possible that many children in many other parts of the four countries of study are trafficked without being reported.

From the data collected, it is evident that there are many cases similar to that of Agnes and the problem is present in all the four countries as noted during consultations with officials from the various countries. While many cases may not be detected, more than 1/3 of the 1172 adults interviewed had heard of children trafficked in their communities. On the other hand, 15% (49/314) of the children interviewed reported that they had a member of their family trafficked.

The numbers might have been influenced by the fact that the study was done in boarder communities where the problem is expected to be high. Nevertheless, it highlights the extent to which the problem exists. It is therefore, plausible that among the 62% of adults who denied knowledge of trafficked children, there are actually some that had knowledge of the problem but only denied it. During the Focus group discussions held in all the four study countries, it was revealed that child trafficking was a problem in the study community as illustrated in some of the cases below:

*My name is Almaz Alemu. I am working as ‘kebele’ cabinet and also chairperson of women affairs in the kebele. In my spare time my friends and I take care of people living with HIV/AIDS in our localities. Since this is a border town, I encounter several cases of child trafficking.*

*I first found the child when she had been assaulted by the trafficker. The girl child’s name is Tigist Tafesse. She was 16 years old and 7<sup>th</sup> grade student. She was brought from a rural area near Dessie the place called Segreat Woreda (northern part of the country). She told me that her parents were farmers.*

*The trafficker has no blood relation with the victim but he did live in the neighborhood of the victim’s parents. Before the act of trafficking she was promised a better life and education. On their way from Dessie to Moyale she had received good treatment and care. Problems then arose a few days after her arrival. She was forced to work as home servant in the trafficker’s house and at the same time worked as a waitress in a ‘Tej bet’ (a local drink house). The child told me that the abuse slowly grew up to sexual harassment and assault. At the end she could not stand all these abuses and finally went to claim for justice.*

*When I came to understand that this was a case of trafficking I decided to help the child. Initially I tried to investigate the case as a kebele cabinet, and then the police and I made the trafficker to appear before the kebele court to answer for the charge. Finally, after scrutinizing the case, the kebele court passed its judgment against the trafficker and he was instructed to pay the child 2000 Ethiopian Birr. Though the trafficker was giving us hard time with the payment of the fine he was forced by the police to pay the money to the child. The victim has recently went back home after two long years stay in Moyale.*

A case was given in Tanzania, where a woman had two children missing but was reluctant to report as a religious leader- noted: ***“In my village Kamwanga there is a woman whose two children were missing, I advised her to go and report to the police station but she was reluctant”.***

Similarly a woman working on Uganda’s boarder to Kenya- Busia lost a child, reported case to children’s officers but failed to record a statement with the police officers as in the case below

*A 10-year-old Ugandan girl, whose mother sells porridge along the border, got abducted by another woman who had found the little girl roaming around away from her mother. The child was to be transported to Nairobi through Mauko. The girl’s mother reported the case to the children officers. With the help of a volunteer, the children officer in Budalangi and Municipality, the girl was traced. When taken to the police station, the girls mother took away her child and never went back to record a statement with the police*

As evident in the above stories, that some of the reports that would have been recorded to provide evidence on the intensity of the problem are not made. As a result, both police and organisations working on child trafficking, as well as researchers lack evidence on nature and intensity of the problem that would inform policy formulation as well as the advocacy campaigns on child trafficking. This might make it hard to reduce/ fight child trafficking activities.

**2.3.1 Who are the Trafficked Children?**

*“The determination of the victim’s sex depends on the nature of abuse the trafficker wants to use the child for,”* **Key informant from Kenya.**

Both qualitative and quantitative data reveal that child trafficking targets children of all ages and sexes. This is so because the children are used for assorted activities. It was for example, noted during qualitative interviews that *“even newly born babies are sold”*. Nevertheless, children of school going age specifically ranging from 8- 18 years seem to be more at risk of being trafficked since they can provide labour. When asked about the age of the children who had been trafficked, children mainly reported 13 years and above as indicated in the table below:

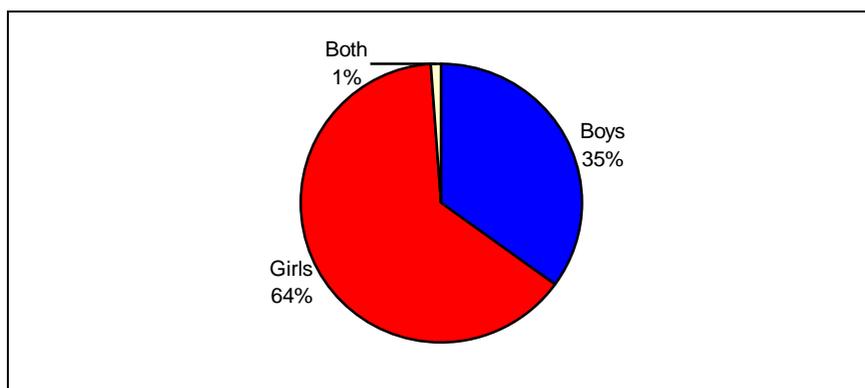
**Table 5: Age description of trafficked Children as reported by children**

<b>Age in years</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
10	3	7
11	1	2
12	3	7
13	6	14
14	5	11
15	7	16
16	8	18
17	6	13
18	5	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>

As indicated in the table above, among the children that were known to have been trafficked, 87% were above 13 years . The targeting of children of 13 and above is a justification that most children are trafficked for labour since this is the age at which children can work. It was however noted that child trafficking is not only limited to those children who are considered economically productive but also to the very young ones who were likely to be falling victims of human sacrifice.

Regarding gender, both male and female children were reported to be potential targets depending on the purpose of trafficking/ need for the trafficker. While key informants during qualitative interviews suggest that boys are more at the risk, on the contrary, children and adults who participated in quantitative interviews considered girls to be at a higher risk with 52% reported by children and 64% reported by adults as illustrated in Figure 6 below:

**Figure 6: Sex of trafficked Children**



About 2/3 of adults and 1/2 of the children perceived girls to be more at risk of trafficking. This was re-affirmed in the discussion with children about their experiences on trafficking. Of the reported 49 family members of interviewed children that had been trafficked, more than half (26/49) were females. Children asserted that female children were more at risk because they are desired to be employed in domestic work, in bars and sexual exploitation (prostitution). Girls are also perceived to be easily convinced, and would most likely offer less resistance.

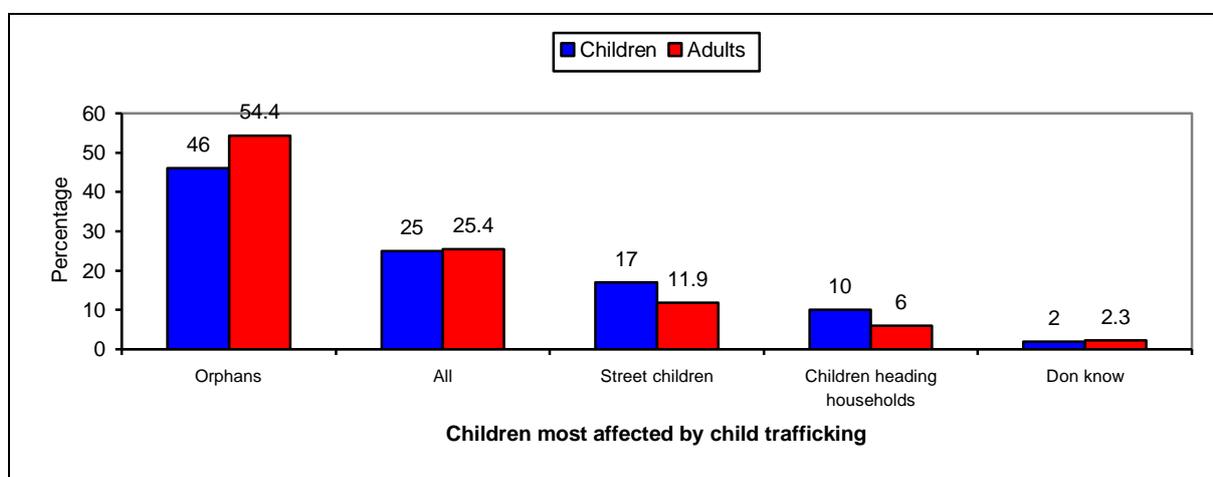
Key informants reported similar activities for girls. Boys on the other hand were noted to be potential targets because they can easily get employment in many sectors, such as factory work, plantations, fuel smuggling and motorcycle riding commonly known as 'boda boda' (for Uganda), among other activities.

### 2.3.2 Social status of children commonly trafficked

*“Traffickers in most cases prefer children whose parents are dead or those coming from single parent families. Generally, children from poor backgrounds are mostly the victims regardless of whether their parents are alive or not”.*

Children from social and economically vulnerable families are more at risk of being trafficked. Interactions with children during the quantitative data collection indicated that orphans are most affected as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 7: Children most affected by Child trafficking**



Both children and adults noted orphans as the most affected with 46% and 54% respectively as in the case study below. While ¼ of adult and children respondents regarded all children to be at risk, street children and children heading households also came out prominently as being at risk.

***Case study of an orphan who was trafficked in Loitoktok/Rombo***

*I am 17 years old. I came from Mwanza with my little girl who is one and a half years old to Sirari in Tarime. My parents passed a way so I was living with my grand parents in Shinyanga. When I completed standard seven I was pregnant, my grand parents chased me away, it was from that time when I came to Mwanza in a place called Mabatini. I lived a difficult life with my daughter without any one to depend on. One day a woman came from Sirari, she told me come with her in Sirari to work in a bar. I consented because I was desperate and I had no option, so we came to Sirari together.*

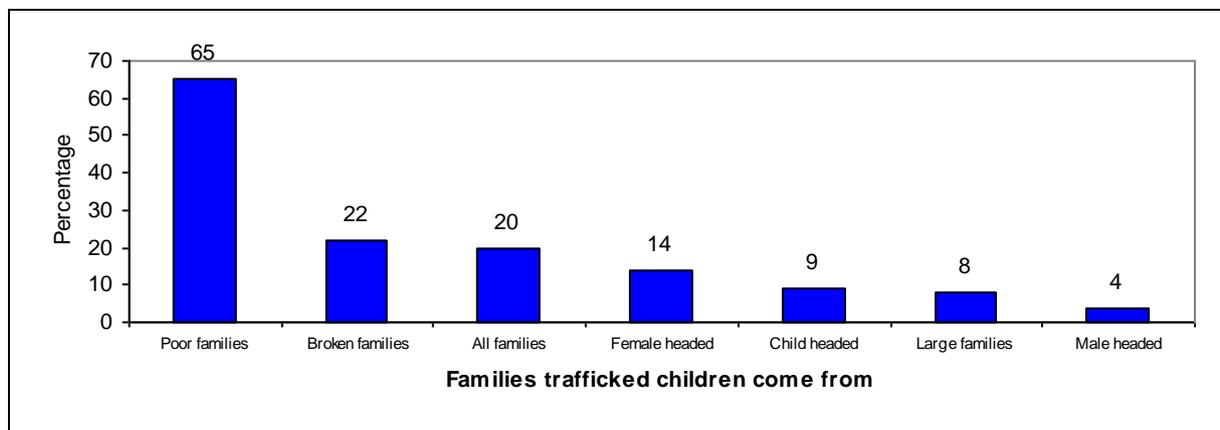
*I started working in a bar while staying with that woman. One day a man came looking for a barmaid to go and work in Kisii Kenya. I agreed and the following day we started the journey to Kisii. When we arrived in Kisii he said we were still continuing, I asked him where he was taking me but he responded by telling me to keep quite and that if I did not like going with him he would leave me there so that I could get killed and that would be none of his business. I kept quite and we continued with the journey. When we arrived in Nairobi I told him that I was thirsty and he went out and brought two coca cola sodas which were already opened and he*

*gave me one and remained with one. When I drunk half way I became unconscious and regained my consciousness while here in Tarakea. I have been here for four days but haven't signed any contract as yet and I can't start working without knowing what my salary is. So I have come to report.*

The case study clearly shows how the disparity of orphaned children exposes them to child trafficking with no hope of getting any support from relatives. It is therefore important that implementation of policies and laws governing trafficked children be emphasised.

The nature of family structure was acknowledged to contribute to the risk of child trafficking. Children staying in socially problematic families were also recognised to be affected more by the problem child trafficking.

**Figure 8: Social status of families trafficked children come from (reported by children)**



Children in poor families are at high risk of being trafficked. This is closely associated with the fact that trafficked children are often expected to be a source of income to their families as earlier discussed. Children living in broken families (22%) and single parent families, whether female or male headed, were considered to be at risk of child trafficking since single parent families are highly likely to be poverty stricken. In addition, children cared for by a single parent without support from a spouse are likely to be vulnerable to many risks including trafficking.

Similar to Children's responses, Adult responses indicated that the highest children from poor families were mostly at risk of being trafficked followed by children from broken families and single parent families as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 6: Families where trafficked children come from (Adults - n=1149)**

Origin of most trafficked children	Count	Percentage
Poor	585	51
Broken families	383	33
Single parent headed	191	17
All families	177	15
Child headed	97	8

More than one response acceptable

The highest was noted to be coming from poor families with a total of 51 of the responses followed by broken families 33% and single parent households 17%. 15% of the responses however indicated that trafficked children come from all kinds of households an indication that all children can be vulnerable to trafficking irrespective of whether broken, poor or single headed. This implies that interventions targeting all households could also be considered.

### **2.3.3 Origin and Destination of trafficked children**

Child trafficking has an internal and international dimension. Children were mentioned to have been trafficked within their countries and across borders. Key informants cited Kenya as the main destination of trafficked children within the region compared to Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. 64% of children reported Kenya as the major country of destination for trafficked children compared to 18% of Ethiopia and Tanzania. Interestingly, Uganda was not mentioned by children among the countries of destination.

Respondents in Kenya (both Moyale and Busia) acknowledged that many children serving in Kenya hotels are from Ethiopia and these were mainly noted to be of primary school going age. Findings from the qualitative data singled out Moyale as one of the towns with children trafficked from Ethiopia and other rural areas through arranged employment contracts between parents and traffickers.

“Many children may come to Moyale for different reasons, some of them come to cross the boarder and find a job. Others come to cross the boarder and enter into other adjacent country. ....there are many brokers working on child trafficking as a means of income. They bring children from other parts of the country by promising to pay money to the child or parents/ guardian. They usually use vehicles and facilitate crossing the boarder illegally”  
**(FGD Community Leaders Moyale – Ethiopia).**

Most trafficked children reportedly end up in urban centres possibly due to availability of employment opportunities particularly by business people who seek to employ cheap labour thus exploiting them.

Trafficked children were mainly noted to come from rural areas and small towns such as Mega, Hageremariam, Dilla, Yabello, Kembata, Aleta Wendo, Awasa in Ethiopia. Nevertheless, there are also cases of urban trafficking. Although not involved in the study, Rwanda was also reported as a common source of trafficked children.

Respondents also acknowledged that not only does trafficking occur across countries but it also happens within their internationally recognised borders. Internal trafficking was noted to be mainly transporting of children from rural to urban areas and cities. In Tanzania, Arusha and Dar es Salaam are major towns and were revealed to be key destinations of internal trafficking while Addis Ababa was famous in Ethiopia. Although Kampala was a key destination for Uganda, other towns like Busia which is at the border were also noted to be destination points probably because it's easier for them to proceed to Kenya from Busia.

When children are trafficked, they do not necessarily stop within the region but may go across the region. External destinations of trafficked children that were reported by adults include Arab countries (34%), South Africa (33%) and Europe (28%). Arab countries included Dubai and countries in the Middle East as countries of destination.

### 2.3.4 Transportation of trafficked children

Traffickers tend to make use of transportation and communication systems at hand. Road transport is the main form of transport in the region and reportedly, trafficked children are mainly transported by road using different modes including buses, Lorries, bicycles and sometimes walk on foot. The table below shows reported means of transport of trafficked children reported by children and adult respondents:

**Table 7: Transportation means for trafficked children**

Means of transport	Children% (n=314)	Adults% (n= 942)
Vehicles	91	83
Aeroplanes	1	13
Sea	-	4
On foot	9	4
Rail	-	1

As evidenced in the above table, children are commonly transported in vehicles with 91% and 83% responses reported by children and adults respectively.

This may be because many children are trafficked within the same region or road transport is the first means used before they are airlifted to other countries.

*My name is Abdulrahman Mohammed and I am 17 years old and currently working as a turn boy with the Lorries plying Moyale- Nairobi route. I have been doing this job since 2006 and it is very lucrative. We are only supposed to be transporting beans from Moyale to Nairobi, but in most cases, when we are lucky enough, brokers approach us to help them ferry children from Moyale to Nairobi. In a good trip, we can even ferry four children at ago. Each child costs Ksh 15 000 to traffic because it is a very risky deal.*

*The policemen have so far never detected anything because we usually arrange the sacks in such a way that a “cave” like depression remains at the base of the lorry where we hide the trafficked children. We used to ferry both boys and girls but nowadays we only take boys since the girls are usually so weak and we fear that they might die on the way as they are not strong enough to withstand the suffocation and other challenges associated with the long journeys from Moyale to the 10<sup>th</sup> street at Eastleigh in Nairobi. One journey can take an average of four days.*

*I am a very bitter person right now because a month ago in December 2007, we had ferried a boy to the 10<sup>th</sup> street at Eastleigh in Nairobi and I have not been paid the remaining Ksh 6000. I wish somebody could help me to get the broker who had since disappeared to give me the money. However, I don't know what exactly happens to the children whom we have ferried since the brokers usually instruct us to deliver the children to specific individuals. I have however heard rumours that some are taken outside the country.*

Movements of people often carried out in a fraudulent and clandestine manner, as traffickers try to find ways of limiting the possibility of being found. From the case study above, it is evident that children are at risk of suffocation and collapsing sacks of maize and beans given the nature of packing described above as well as the shortage of food and water during the travel period. This therefore calls for strict check points and through checking of those engaged in transportation of produce.

A few children were also reported to be transported by air with 13 % as reported by adults. It is important to note that sometimes children may be transported on foot. Geographical proximity is probably an important factor in defining trafficking routes – where traffickers may opt for the shortest route from the place of origin to the destination - where the only means of transport

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may be by foot. However, this may mean that children are made to walk long distances in the process of being trafficked. While the above were the commonly reported methods of transport, it is possible that more than one method may be used to transport one child during trafficking especially considering the countries of origin and destination.

Key informants reported that routes used by traffickers on land are specific. In Kenya they were noted to include; Sirari to Kisii then Nairobi and finally Tara kea. In Ethiopia they were noted to travel from Yabelo, Woreda through Addis Ababa to the southern part of Ethiopia where they get to Moyale border town to the Arab countries which were identified as destination centres. No specific routes were mentioned for Tanzania and Uganda to Kenya

## 2.4 Actors in Child Trafficking

A trafficking process or network involves different actors including victims, users and traffickers.

### 2.4.1 Perpetuators

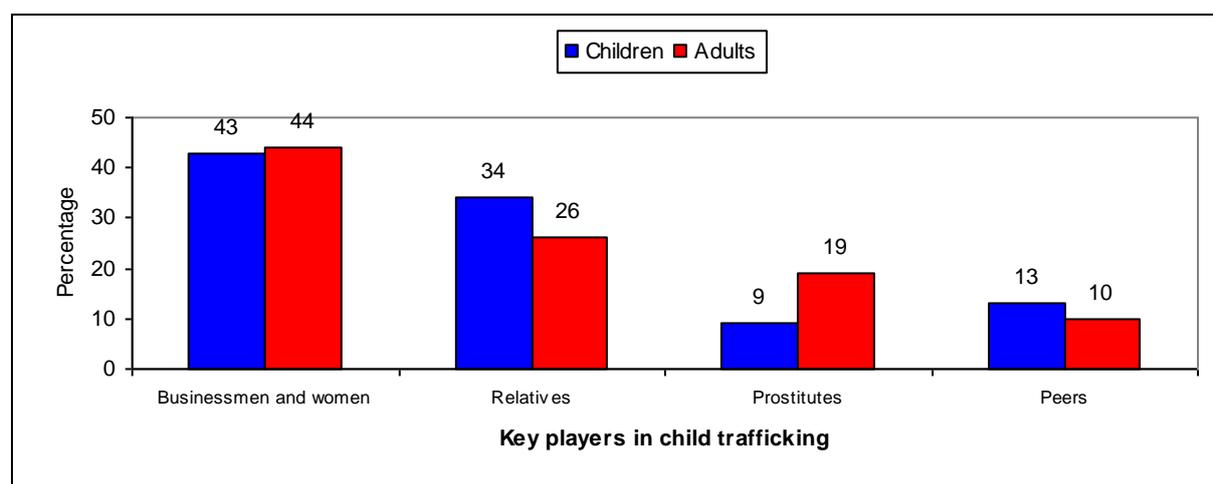
*“Potential traffickers present themselves as very helpful people. The process starts when someone asks for a child to work for him or her” (Loitokitok FGD, Parents).*

Interestingly, key informant interviews held in all study countries noted that perpetrators also include the would-be advocates against child trafficking. Perpetuators include mainly three categories: suppliers, traffickers and users. Parents and other relatives were mentioned in all countries as being among the perpetrators of trafficking – who may decide to make available their child, that is, suppliers.

In both qualitative and quantitative data, businessmen and women were the most commonly reported players in the trafficking business – both as traffickers and users of the trafficked children. Key informant interviews also pointed at people living near borders to be more involved in cross border trafficking. Children perceive traffickers as “They are normally talkative and smartly dressed”. This is important because traffickers often use sweet luring language and perhaps need to be smart to attract children.

Meanwhile, retired prostitutes were mentioned by respondents in Uganda during the key informant interviews as users, who may get young girls and involve them in prostitution and get commission from them. Quantitative data, however, indicated that they were key players in all countries as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 9: Key players in child trafficking**



As is evident in the above figure, business men and women were highly ranked by both children and adults (43% and 44%). It is however, not uncommon to find some degree of family involvement in the transaction, where relatives were reported 34% and 26% respectively by children and adults. Key informants noted that parents may accept money from traffickers and some times relatives promise to find work or assist in providing for the child. Consequently, parents may hand over their children based on the promise of education, professional training or paid work. Prostitutes were mostly reported by adults at 19% compared to children.

Children peers were also noted to be playing an instrumental role in child trafficking possibly conniving with traffickers with the aim of helping them get to the targeted children. In Uganda perpetrators were commonly referred to as “con men and women” locally termed as “*bafere*”. These were in some instances said to collaborate with peers, parents and relatives of the targeted children.

The law enforces though may not be directly trafficking children, were pointed out to abet the problem. Participants in VIPP sessions mentioned the police as aiding parties in some instances as illustrated in the case study below.

### **Case study of an orphan that was trafficked to work for a District Criminal Investigations Officer in Kenya**

*Hadija Abdullahi's mother had died in 1998 when she was only 6 years old. Her father had separated with her mother some years before. The burden of bringing her up therefore fell on her ailing grandmother. In 2005, an Ethiopian woman married to a Kenyan who happened to be living in the same village that Hadija resided convinced Hadija's grandmother that she would ease her burden of looking after Hadija by taking her to Moyale Kenya. At 13, Hadija was taken away by a female neighbour under the behest of Moyale District Criminal Investigations Officer (DCIO) to work for the later as the house maid.*

*Eight months later the DCIO was transferred to Kasarani where he moved with Hadija. Life become unbearable in Kasarani- Nairobi as she was required to wake up very early in the morning and go to bed late at night after the entire house hold had gone to bed. She would retire to bed with backaches due to the heavy duties that she performed during the day unfortunately things got worse as days went by.*

*In mid 2006, she connived with a Luhya friend whom she had met within the neighbourhood to escape to Wajir. Hadija then enrolled in a dress making school in Wajir where she later on met a man who married her towards the end of 2006. The couple is currently living in Butie in Moyale together with their 2 month old son.*

The case study shows the plight of orphaned children and the extent to which care takers can be convinced by child traffickers especially if the care takers can not meet the needs of the children due to poverty. Similarly the case story shows how the would- be advocates of child trafficking can also directly or indirectly engage in child trafficking activities or aide child traffickers as in the case of the DCIO who employed a trafficked child. It is therefore important to note that awareness creation on child trafficking needs to be done at all levels including to would be advocates of child trafficking.

### **How to recognize a trafficker**

It is difficult to recognize traffickers as they often look like any other person, and many may behave so friendly and caring to the children (their potential victims). The busy nature of the crossing borders make it even more difficult, as one key informant noted:

*“The flow of people at tarakea-loitoktok border makes it difficult to know who traffickers are and which children are being trafficked. There is no passport check, people from both sides freely cross the boarder with some of them walking, crossing with motorcycles used as taxis, while others are in cars. There are hawkers from Kenya selling different items in Tarakea, and most Kenyans living at the border have to and fro movements in Tarakea going for lunch, dinner, drinking or other reasons. People from Tara kea also go to Kenya for market in KIKUMBAA, children go for school every day in Illasti while others go visiting their relatives. Overall there is no control on the flow of people at the boarder. This contributes to child trafficking because someone can cross the border with three or four children but immigration officers cannot ask her where s/he is taking them, since they may be his/her children or s/he they may be related. In general it is not easy to identify who is being trafficked and who is not. There are other short cuts loosely translated as ‘panya road’ which people use to escape or cross the boarder especially when they have illegal business. The limited personnel at the boarder were noted to be the cause for continued use of these short cuts because there are no officers to deploy in such escape routes hence leaving them to easily cross their smuggled goods.”*

It is however important to note that some times traffickers can be recognised through various ways, behaviours or reactions. It was observed that some times you tell a trafficker by smartness. The trafficker can be very smart while the child who is being taken away is shabbily dressed. It was also noted that at times the trafficker may look very unsettled and is not comfortable as if they fear that someone may find out what they are doing or they may come across a relative or anyone who knows the child. It was also noted that sometimes traffickers are very commanding to the child.

#### **2.4.2 The trafficked child**

A trafficked child is usually in a precarious position, seeking “help” to escape; a situation of oppression, desperation or persecution, and to reach a desired destination. It may however not be easy to identify a child being trafficked because they do not exhibit similar behaviour and characteristics. However below are some of the possible behaviours:

- The child may not be free with the stranger with whom he/she is travelling. It is unlikely that they sit closely to each other and play around as a normal child would do.
- Some do not communicate with the stranger and are abnormally quiet or look very unhappy and are likely to cry for attention
- The trafficked child becomes very fearful and doesn’t want to be recognized by other people in case they have agreed to escape from home.
- The child who has agreed to escape might also be very restless lest he/she is seen by people who know him/ her.

## 2.5 Factors Contributing to and Sustaining Child Trafficking

In all the countries where the study was conducted, it was noted that child trafficking is driven and maintained by several factors. Among these are both pull and push factors. Push factors were more common compared to pull factors as explained in the paragraphs following.

### 2.5.1 Pull Factors

These are factors that draw children from their communities or countries of origin to communities or countries of destination. They can also be described as factors that make it easy for child traffickers to draw/ convince children to move from their places of origin to places of destination. Promises of better lives, taking of children to schools, employment and independence strongly came out as the major aspects used to lure children and their parents in letting their children change locations.

*“There is a girl who was lied to that she would be taken to school in Ndalali only to be turned into a house helper when she got there” (Children FGD, Loitokitok).*

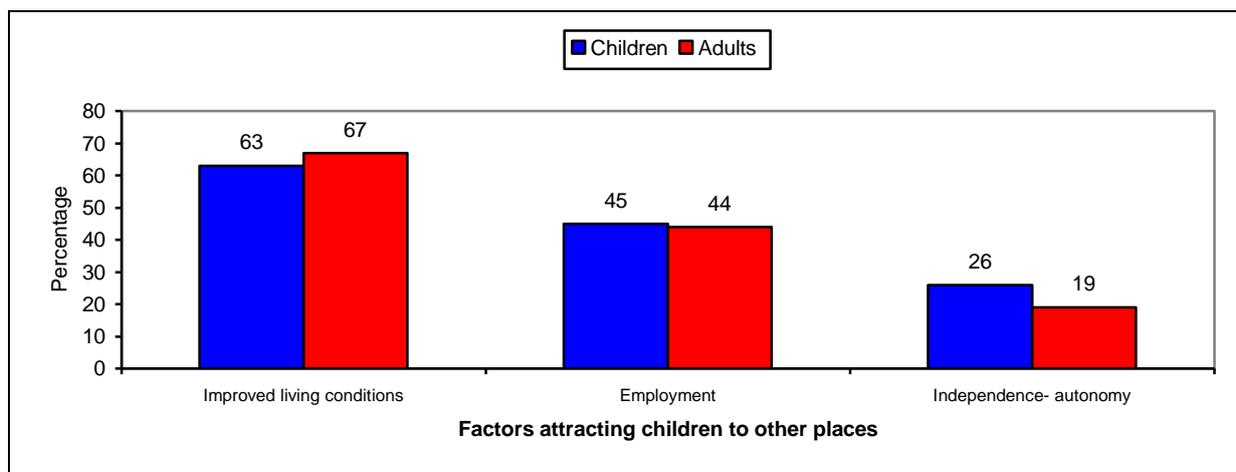
*“A neighbour in Loitokitok was lured by a friend who was selling samosa within the village about the good life in Mombasa. The girl was taken to Mombasa and eventually got married off. The samosa girl is currently working in Tarakea as a bar maid” (Participant during one of the FGD’s in Loitokitok)*

*“In February 2006, Anne Nyambura discovered a girl by the name Judy had been stolen by another woman wearing a buibui. The woman lured the girl by giving her some juice. It was not known whether the juice had been intoxicated with drugs but the buibui woman was later on arrested at Mbirigani. Upon being questioned, she claimed that she wanted to adopt the child”*

The promise of good living conditions emerged as a key pull factor in both qualitative and quantitative findings. Children may be lured with simple inducements such as juices and cakes. It was noted that often traffickers convince victims and their parents/relatives that once taken, children will lead good lives compared to the lives they are leading at the time at their place / country of residence. Nairobi was commonly reported as one of the cities where children are promised such kinds of livelihoods in East Africa and London in Europe. It was revealed that such scenarios encourage children to go with the traffickers.

Availability of employment opportunities in the countries of destination was also reported to be a major cause of child trafficking. It was revealed that trafficked children find the jobs lucrative especially if they were not working before being trafficked. The thought of being independent was also noted to be driving them into being trafficked. Children who have been working in their countries of origin are promised higher pay. The empty promises help traffickers convince the children to leave with them with a purported good life in return. children who fell victims of being promised relatively higher pay compared to what they were formerly earning in their communities/ countries of origin ( if any )were noted to include the child labourers working on plantations in Kenya. Key informants in both Kenya and Uganda noted that potential victims are encouraged while still in their countries of origin such as Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia to move to countries such as Kenya for better paying jobs. Victims then start anticipating improved lives after some years of work, when they return to their original homes.

**Figure 10: Factors attracting children to other places**



Improved living conditions were reported as the highest pull factor among both adults (67%) and children (63%) more than half of the responses. This was followed with the availability of or promised employment opportunities with close to half 45% and 44% of responses among children and adults respectively. Independence was also noted to be playing a key role with 26% of the responses among children and 19% of the adults reporting it.

Although not mentioned in quantitative data, it was revealed during key informant interviews that some return migrants influence children to accept being transported to other countries. Respondents indicated that with relatively improved material wealth, returnees with perceived improved livelihoods encourage other children to go and have a feel of the same. It was for example, noted that children who are trafficked from Tanzania to Kenya to provide cheap labour usually return home much ‘wealthier’. This is likely to amplify child trafficking as parents will also be supportive not forgetting the peer influence as other children will be admiring and sharing experiences with the returnees.

### **Expected benefits from trafficking children**

Findings from both qualitative and quantitative data indicated that expectations of the children and their parents/guardians contribute to child trafficking or lead to children being trafficked as illustrated in the paragraphs following.

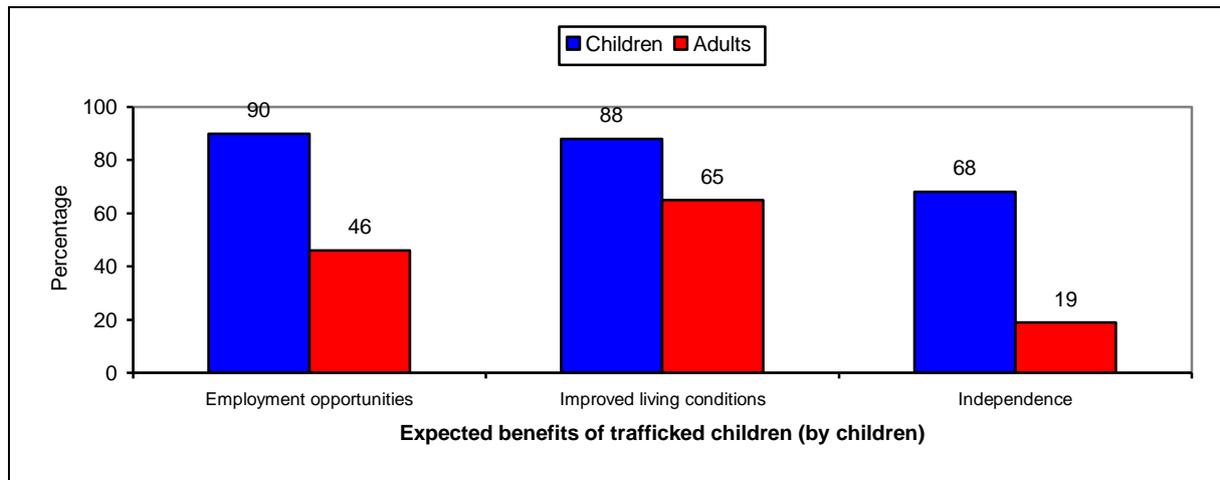
#### *Children’s Expectations*

Key informant interviews held in the study countries pointed to the expected independence and autonomy children get when they go to another country/ city or community where they are living on their own with no responsible adult to restrict their movement or even influence their decision as noted by an officer in Uganda:

*“The age of adolescents is the time children feel they are the most brilliant people and can make own decisions without any support from adults. It’s the time they feel anyone stopping them from making personal decisions does not know what life is about”.*

It’s therefore plausible that if a child in such a stage of life is promised to be taken to a place where s/he will be independent and will make their own decisions, the dream will have been lived. Children were said to be with varying expectations as demonstrated in the figure below:

**Figure 11: Expected benefits of trafficked children (by children)**



Ninety percent of the children’s responses indicated that getting employment was their main expectation while 88% reported improved conditions and 68% of the responses were anticipating being independent in the new location. On the other hand, parents responses indicated that the trafficked children were mostly looking forward to improved living conditions (65% of responses) followed by employment opportunities 46% and only 19% of the adults responses thought the children were expecting to get independence. From the above figure it is evident that poverty is a major cause of children’s discomfort because they opt to look for employment opportunities in a bid to improve their living conditions. This also implies that children are most probably involved in child labour in their countries and communities and are expected to make some contribution to improving their livelihoods hence their hope that child trafficking can be one of the solutions to their problems.

*Expectations of parents and guardians of trafficked children*

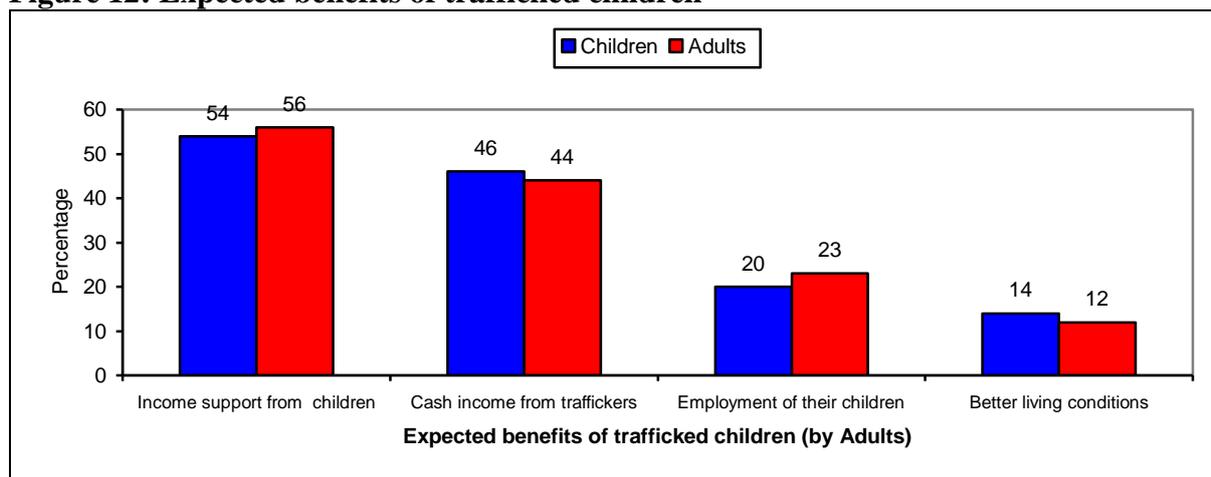
Similar to the above it was noted that child trafficking is caused and maintained by the expectations that adults and care takers/ guardians have when their children are trafficked. Findings from both qualitative and quantitative data revealed that guardians anticipated that they would benefit as in the case below where a child was trafficked and employed to provide income to the family/mother.

*Josephine Lenkayo aged 13 years old got employed by Lucy Wambui in her bookshop as bookshop attendant. Lucy narrated how she got the child through a broker whom she paid a commission of Ksh. 500. The broker in collaboration with Josephine’s mother took Josephine all the way from Sobet to Loitokitok where Lucy is based. By then Josephine was still in primary school.*

*She eventually employed Josephine in her bookshop as a shop attendant at KSH 1500 per month. Josephine’s parents used to collect the money from her without leaving her any portion. Early this year, Josephine’s mother demanded a salary increment from Lucy. When she refused, the mother took Josephine away. Lucy claims that the girl is currently pregnant and suspects that she is residing in Nairobi though the exact locations are not known.*

Josephine’s case indicates how economic expectations by parents as a major ‘pull factor’ which instigates trafficking in children. This sometimes culminates into sexual exploitation of the trafficked children, particularly girls. The figure below shows the expectations of adults and care takers of the trafficked children.

**Figure 12: Expected benefits of trafficked children**



Income support from the trafficked children was reported to be the major expectation of parents and guardians with 56% responses from adults and 54% from children followed by cash income from traffickers with whom they would have connived to traffic the children (46% responses by children and 44% reported by adults) the parents/ guardians expectation that their children would get employment on being trafficked was reported by 20 % of the children’s responses and 23% of the adults while better living conditions were reported by 14% of children’s responses and only 12 % of adult responses.

It is important to note that poverty highly ranks as a cause and maintainer of child trafficking mainly because parents opt to sell their children to get money. Policy options to reduce child trafficking should therefore consider interventions to increase peoples’ incomes to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities occurring to children in order for their parents to earn money.

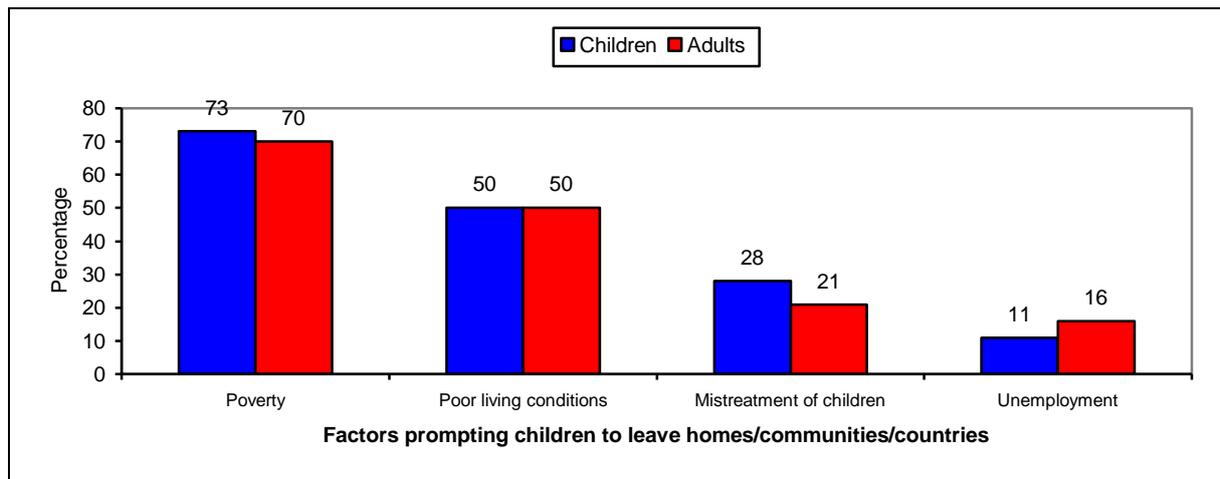
## 2.5.2 Push Factors

### *Economic factors*

*“There is a lot of poverty in the area. This forces parents to send their children to look for work”.*

In all the four study countries, both qualitative and quantitative data indicated that poverty is a major cause of child trafficking. From the Quantitative data, close to 2/3 of the responses of adults (70%) and children (73%) reported poverty as a key factor in exacerbating child trafficking. Poverty leads to unfavourable living conditions and lack of basic necessities, which force children to leave their homes so as to get involved in income generating activities as illustrated in the figure below:

**Figure 13: Factors prompting children to leave homes/ communities/countries**



Poverty inevitably leads to poor living conditions as people cannot access the basic needs and cannot lead the desired quality of life thus encouraging or prompting children to leave their communities and countries in search of better living conditions. This was affirmed by both children and adults with 50 % of responses reporting it as a major cause of child trafficking as evident in the figure above. Children noted that after some of the parents have received the temporal economic gains, they influence their friends to traffic their children just like they did.

In addition to poverty, respondents reported increasing social and economic inequality as a major factor contributing to child trafficking. There were concerns that children are easily convinced because they anticipate better living conditions in countries and cities of destination compared to the conditions in which they are living at the time of trafficking.

Similarly, inability to provide necessities to these children by both parents and guardians/care takers was reported to be a driving force into selling off their children to traffickers. Others encourage their children to go out and search for employment with the hope that their earnings will improve household incomes. It was also noted that due to poverty, parents are encouraged to force their children into seeking employment to support them or even connive with traffickers to take their children with the hope of them getting money.

#### *Social factors*

Social expectations, children-parents relations, poor parenting and family conflicts were noted to be some of the push factors influencing child trafficking.

Poor parenting forces many children to leave home and relocate to other places or even countries, once the children are on their own the traffickers are most likely going to utilise that opportunity to take advantage of the children. In Ethiopia, for example, respondents noted that some children may decide to runaway from corporal punishments at home, while others go away in search of independence as illustrated in the previous paragraphs. In Uganda and Kenya, respondents cited parental neglect such as not sending children to school as causes of child trafficking.

*“Some parents are very irresponsible and indulge in heavy drinking. The only option is to send their children out to look for income for the family (Children FGD, Busia Uganda).”*

All countries unanimously pointed out strained family relationships among the major causes of child trafficking. Informants from Kenya cited family separations especially among the Kikuyu community, where marriages were reported to be contract based. The implication is a likelihood of separation at the end of the contract leaving children with only one parent. Such disintegrated families fail to have child care takers, making children lives so hard that they can easily do anything that comes their way. Family breakdown together with the increased HIV pandemic were also mentioned to have led to child headed households leaving children with many responsibilities most of which require money hence forcing them to try all means and measures of getting money including being trafficked.

Other than broken down families, parental neglect and abandonment of children were also noted to be a cause of child trafficking. It was revealed that many parents spend most of the time working leaving child minders and maids in charge while others spend the time they would have spent with their children in bars leaving little or no time for children. Such circumstances expose children to traffickers who can easily connive with the child minders or children themselves thus exacerbating child trafficking.

The intergenerational expectations due to traditional values, and norms were also reported to contribute to the continued practice of trafficking in children. Both qualitative and quantitative data revealed that children are expected to provide for their parents or older relatives as a sign of reciprocity. This exerts pressure on children making them search for money that they can share with their parents. It was also noted that sometimes parents encourage them to migrate to places where they can obtain employment opportunities. Respondents noted that some children are expected to give this provision quite early, thus giving a chance to traffickers. It was further revealed that sometimes children are encouraged by their peers to migrate in search of better living conditions.

Low access to education among children together with increased school drop outs was noted to have led to both trafficking and autonomous migration of children. It was also noted that despite free education in both Kenya and Uganda, some children have not attended school at all and can easily be convinced to join the trafficking business. It was for example noted that the Masai do not take their children to school because of their cultural practices that do not give room for education. Similarly the Karamajong in Uganda do not encourage their children to attend formal education but rather cattle keeping given their nomadic livelihood. Although it is assumed that such children can easily be trafficked, a recent study on child trafficking in Uganda indicated that Karamoja was one of the districts that were not experiencing child trafficking.

During qualitative data collection, respondents particularly from Tanzania were concerned with the general perception of community members in communities where child trafficking is taking place who regarded the vice as a normal and non-criminal activity. The perception that child trafficking is normal exacerbates child trafficking encouraging traffickers to continue with the business but also parents and children themselves to be active players. The practice was noted to be worsened by the reluctance in implementing and strengthening of by laws against child trafficking at the respective community/village and national levels. Similarly, a religious leader of the Lutheran church of Tarakea- Tanzania, expressed concern about the way community members were regarding the practice of child trafficking in the communities of Tarakea and Usseri as normal .

Meanwhile there was a general misconception about the laws that protect child trafficking for example, about the legal age for labour in the different countries. These misconceptions even

involved would be implementers of the law. While there is a general lack of compliance with the laws, the misconceptions make implementation even more difficult.

#### *Peer influence: Children as agents of trafficking*

Children are not simply passive victims of trafficking, but are also active agents who aid and abet the vice hence influencing their peers in being re-located. Children may plan their journeys for some time and gradually save and raise money for their transport. Usually such children are influenced by their peers who may seduce them with better lives and autonomous lives if they migrated to other places. Unfortunately, often times children's desires for a good life are not realised as illustrated in the case story below

*We have a domestic servant within our home that used to narrate to my younger brother about the good things that are associated with Nairobi. My brother got hooked up, looked for fare without our knowledge and escaped through the help of a friend to our maid. Unfortunately, when my brother reached Nairobi, he got abandoned on the streets. He had to survive the hardest way. After sometime, he embarked in the Mkokoteni business where he managed to save some cash to come home in 2007 after being in Kenya for some time.*

#### *Political factors*

Continued conflict in some countries exacerbates child trafficking as children are fleeing abduction and the conflict environment as a whole. In Uganda for example, respondents noted that many of the children who were suffering in the northern region were forced to autonomously migrate due to the conflict. Such children were vulnerable to trafficking since any one could have used their displacement and migration as an opportunity to exploit them as observed:

*"During the periods of intensive conflict, children in northern Uganda used to spend nights sleeping on the streets of their towns to avoid abduction. During such periods they were vulnerable to trafficking because they were seeking for safety and any one who would come their way would easily convince them as long as it was not a rebel" Probation Officer ....Uganda*

#### *Legal and policy issues*

Associated with legal issues, adult respondents noted laxity in the control at immigration/border points, which allows free movement of people across borders thus facilitating child trafficking. In all the four countries the free movement of people across the borders was acknowledged. In Ethiopia for example, an agreement between Ethiopia and Kenya was cited as allowing free movement across the Ethiopia-Kenya border within 20Kms for Education and health services. This enables traffickers to transact their 'businesses' with no control. In Tanzania, participants noted that there are many activities carried out across the borders on a daily basis. Some Tanzanians were said to have farms in Kenya – Illasti - where they go for farming on a daily basis. There is also the common market on Mondays at a place Kikumbaa in Kenya where the Tanzanians move in multitudes. On the other hand, Kenyans go to Tanzania to have meals and other economic and social activities. Although it was noted that all people crossing borders have to pass through check points, this daily movement and continued use of the check points tends to weaken the stringent screening procedures as officers get used to the people which can easily lead to abuse of the agreement.

The nature of transactions and activities as explained above make it difficult for the immigration officers to distinguish between child traffickers and other people but also the children being trafficked from the ones genuinely accompanying relatives to countries of destination. In the case study below, a trafficked girl was dressed in a school uniform as if going to school as narrated by an immigration officer in Kenya

*A girl who is approximately 13 years old was trafficked through the help of a broker from Tanzania to Loitokitok in order to do all kinds of work at Key Point restaurant in the area. The employer of the girl had initially gone to a local broker; paid him some commission then went to Tanzania to bring the child who was working at Key Point Hotel at the time consultations were done.*

*On seeing the child at the first instance, she passed off as any other school girl since she was wearing a school uniform draped with a lessu. I was unable to communicate with her; however she looked emaciated and walked in a dropping posture possibly from her being overworked. She looked worn out. No action has been taken to rescue the girl as she is still working there. Key Point restaurant is behind the market in Loitokitok.*

## 2.6 Life after Trafficking

### 2.6.1 Activities trafficked children engage in

In all the four study countries, findings from both qualitative and quantitative data revealed that trafficked children are involved in various activities which include; domestic work, mainly done by girls across destinations, restaurant and bar work, sex trade, or child prostitution. It was revealed that young girls working in bars were mainly used to attract customers, but were later taken up into sex trade. It was also noted that there are a considerable number of boys working in plantations in Kenya, although no specific plantations were noted for this. Trafficked girls were some times noted to be forced into marriages, while in other instances the exposure to men through the nature of job they do leads them into early marriages. This was most commonly noted to be among the Masai whose culture encourages early marriages. Organised begging was also reported to be one of the activities trafficked children are engaged in as reported by one religious leader in Kenya who observed that ;

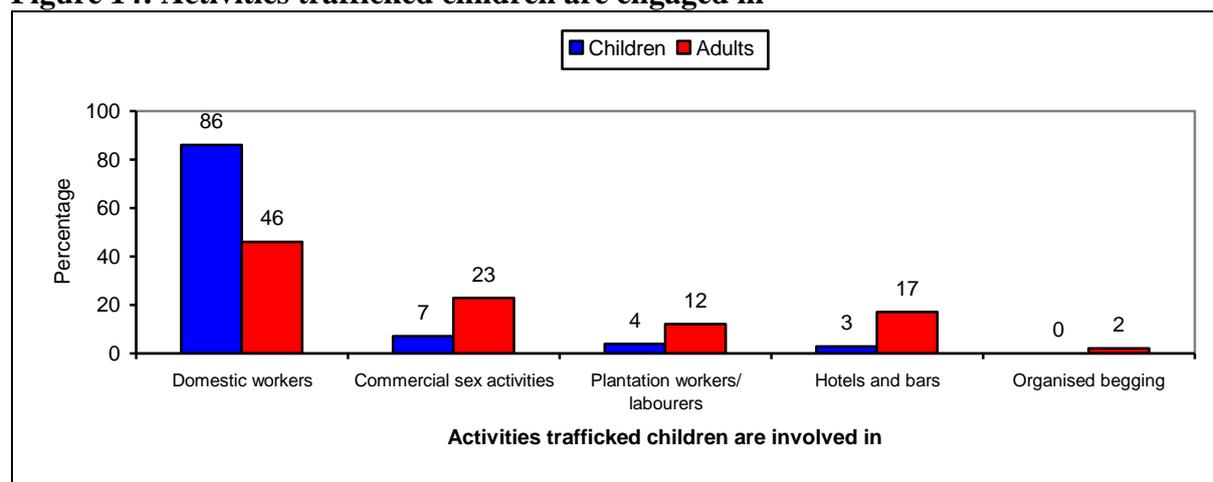
*“I have seen with my own eyes a young boy who was taken from Tanzania to Kenya, he was begging in streets and took collected money to his boss”.*

Trafficked children under the age of 10 were indicated to be used for sacrificial purposes as noted by an orthodox priest in Tanzania,

*“There has been one case where a child’s private parts were cut off last year and this was most likely used for sacrifice”.*

Boarder traders in Tanzania observed that trafficked children in Kenya are employed and /used to collect used plastic bags and bottles from the garbage pits and sell to the market. The figure below gives an illustration of the various activities trafficked children are engaged in as reported by children and adults from the four study countries.

**Figure 14: Activities trafficked children are engaged in**



As indicated in the figure above, domestic work was the most commonly reported activity with 86% and 46 % of the responses among children and adults respectively. Commercial sex activity was almost reported by one quarter (23%) of adults. Hotels and bars as well as plantation work were also reported to be relatively high with 17% and 12% responses (reported by adults).

Although organised begging, sacrifice and early marriage were reported, they carried very low responses possibly due to the fact that very few children are involved in them compared to other activities.

### 2.6.2 Violence and suffering

Evidence from the four study countries indicate that trafficked children experience a lot of physical, social, and mental suffering. At the worst form, children may even die as illustrated in the case below:

*Bitu was 12 years old girl. Her parents divorced as a result of constant conflicts. When her mother re-married, Bitu went to live with her and a step father in Moyale. There Bitu was mistreated by her step father, and she went to Kenya to search for work, through illegal brokers. While at work in Kenya she had disputes with her employer. Her aggressive employer struck her on the head with the weapon called 'banga' that is a big sharp iron. Bitu died and her master discarded the body in the rubbish bin. The police found the body and arrested the employer. (By the time of the study the case was still under investigation)*

Similar cases were reported in all the study countries and some of them had not been even followed up with many similar employers in place. It was observed that even when some children can escape the violence, the escape routes are limited given the fact that they cannot return due to poverty, circumstances in which they left their homes as well as their needs.

### 2.6.3 Recovery of Trafficked Children

Both qualitative and quantitative data revealed that very few trafficked children had been recovered. Quantitative data from both children and adults indicated that only (30% children and 24 % adults) of the responses knew about recovered children compared to (70% children and 76% adults) of those who did not have any knowledge of trafficked children. Information from household and key informant interviews in all the countries indicated that the victims, parents and close relatives play a major role in the recovery of the trafficked children, using private arrangements. Out of the 40 reportedly recovered children, that were previously trafficked none of them was rescued by a formal institution such as police. It was mainly the family or social networks such as neighbours and friends that recovered the children as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 8 : Persons involved in recovery of trafficked children**

<b>Persons that recovered the children</b>	<b>N=</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Parents	29	
Siblings	21	
Self	14	
Neighbour	14	
Relative	14	
Friend	7	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

As illustrated in the table, it is mainly parents (29%) or siblings that assist in the recovery of trafficked children. It is interesting to note that the police and organisations working on issues related to child trafficking are not visible in the return process of the trafficked children hence the need to seek for their active involvement. The dependence on the informal arrangements based on mainly parents means that those children who are trafficked with the consent of their

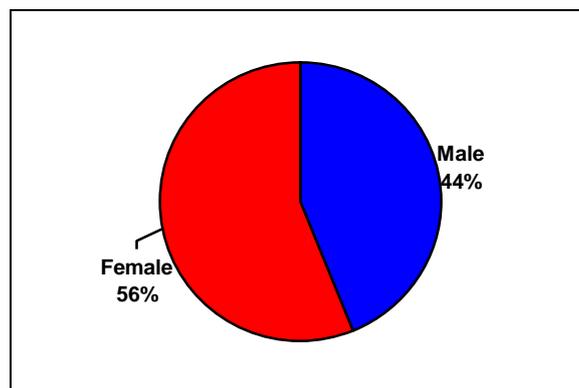
parents may never be rescued. Below is a case example of the recovered child who had been trafficked:

*A motorcyclist to Dar es Salaam lured John Kantai a STD 8 pupil aged 15 years. They eventually got into a vehicle that took them to a different location. After some days of disappearance, a friend to the boy alerted John's father that the boy has been abducted by a woman of Arabic descent and is almost being taken to Arabia. The boy's father looked for KSH 40 000 that he used to bribe the police for them to accompany him to the woman's house. They found many children locked up in a house at Sarifa. Unfortunately in as much as he had been accompanied by the police, he was only allowed to rescue his son alone.*

As illustrated in the case above, only specific children may be recovered – mainly those with parents or relatives with some money or connections with law enforcement officials, leaving others to languish in agony in the hands of traffickers. Some children may be lucky to escape or to be let go by the trafficker once no longer needed. In the above case study, the police did not rescue the trafficked children despite the fact that they had come across many of them locked up in a house.

Interviews with children during the qualitative data also revealed that a high percentage of the formerly trafficked children that returned home were female (56%) compared to 44% males.

**Figure 15: Sex of Returned Children**



Having fewer recovered females could be attributed to the fact that males end up coping with the experiences of the places where they are taken to such as employment and resort to working other than returning home. It is also important to note that the nature of work children do while in trafficking determines their ability to return home.

## 2.7 Existing and Potential for Interventions

There exist some frameworks in each of the four countries that can be used to ensure protection against child trafficking. In addition to international instruments that have been ratified, there are national legal structures, laws and policies as well as civil society activities.

### 2.7.1 International Instruments

All the study countries benefit from the international instruments that are for protection of children, including trafficking. For example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by almost all African countries. Other important instruments include the ILO Convention Number 182 on the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (1999), which was almost universally supported. All the four countries of study have in one way or another recognized some of these important instruments although at varying levels. This has been through ratification of the instruments or being signatories as illustrated in the table below:

**Table 9: Status of Ratification or Signature to the International Instruments Relating to Child Trafficking among the four study countries**

<b>International Instrument</b>	<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>Uganda</b>
UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)	Signature	None	Signature	Signature check
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)	None	None	Signature	Signature
ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2000)	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000)	None	Signature	None	Ratified
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1999)	None	None	None	None
The Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993)	None	None	None	None
The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
The Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990)	None	None	None	Ratified
The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
The UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956)	Ratified	None	Ratified	Ratified
The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)	Ratified	None check	None	None

The variations in ratification of the different international instruments is because some have received more advocacy by UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNCRC, ILO, ANPPCAN and other agencies. The promotion of instrumented depend on the mobilisation of the respective national governments which is normally done through a collaboration of civil society organisations friendly to children in the respective countries.

## 2.7.2 National Laws and Structures

There are existing general national level structures such as the police, the immigration office and the judiciary, which can be used to implement activities that would address the problem child trafficking. There are also departments of social welfare, which charged with the protection of the rights of children.

Apparently however, in all the four study countries there is no specific policy on child trafficking. Where related policies exist, these are still in draft form. Nevertheless, there are some policies that are relevant to the protection and prevention of children against child trafficking. For example, all countries have policies such as Universal Access to Free Primary Education, where every child has a right to go to school and the access is enhanced after governments providing free primary school level. This is important in developing the human capital of children, increasing their economic opportunities and protection from exploitation. There are also Poverty Eradication Policies, which are useful in addressing the push factors of child trafficking.

Regarding laws, the children's act exist in each of the four countries of study and each of the countries has labour laws which restrict the minimum age of engagement into paid work. In Kenya and Uganda, there are draft laws on Human and child trafficking, which if they come into force, they are expected to prevent, suppress and punish traffickers of children. These if implemented, would significantly contribute the alleviation of the problem of child trafficking. The table below summarizes some of the existing laws in the four study countries:

**Table 10: National Laws Related To Child Trafficking**

Country	Law	Key Issues	Remarks
KENYA	THE CHILDREN'S ACT 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gives the principles of the convention on the rights of the child. It highlights child abuse to include physical, mental, sexual and psychological injury.</li> <li>▪ Clearly indicates that children have the right to education, healthcare, and protection from child labour and armed conflict.</li> <li>▪ S 13 emphasises protection of children from physical and psychological abuse, neglect and any form of exploitation including sale, trafficking or abduction</li> <li>▪ It stipulates that any child who becomes a victim of abuse as stipulated in S13 shall be accorded special treatment and rehabilitation in accordance with such regulations as the minister may make</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The policy clearly condemns child trafficking but the extent to which it is implemented is questionable since Kenya is ranks first in engaging in child trafficking and related activities in the four study countries.</li> <li>▪ Although it stipulates that children who become victims of exploitation including child trafficking, it is only on paper as implementation of this seems minimal .</li> </ul>
	EMPLOYMENT ACT 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It stipulates that no person shall employ a child in any activity that constitutes the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>▪ Gives the minister powers in consultation with the board to make regulations declaring any work activity or contract of service harmful to the health, safety or morals of a child .</li> <li>▪ The act prohibits employment of children between 13 and 16 years unless it is to do light work as may be stipulated by the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The act has many contradictions that put partly hinder its implementation but also exposing children to further exploitation especially given some of its articles such as the prohibition of written contracts where children are employed.</li> </ul>

Country	Law	Key Issues	Remarks
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minister.</li> <li>It prohibits written contracts of children aged 13-16 and highlights that there are time restrictions in the employment of children</li> </ul>	
	THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act prohibits any activities likely to lead to child trafficking including involvement in organising transportation and receiving children, child prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act is clearly against child trafficking and any activities likely to lead to child trafficking but its implementation is minimal because research evidence does not indicate that there are any efforts to convict persons who supply, recruit, transport, harbour or receive trafficked children within and across borders as stipulated in the Act.</li> </ul>
	THE PENAL CODE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits any offences against morality including abduction of girls under 16 against the will of their father, mother or lawful care taker. It also prohibits detention of girls against their will and detection of girls against their will</li> <li>It forbids offences against liberty including kidnapping, abduction, buying or disposing a person as a slave and unlawful compulsory labour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act only protects the girl child leaving the boys at a risk of being trafficked and exploited.</li> <li>It does not protect children from being trafficked when their parents and care takers have consented thus exposing children to trafficking and indicates that once girls are detained at their will it is not a crime.</li> </ul>
	THE CHILDREN ADOPTION REGULATIONS ( 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legally authorises adoption of non biological children both nationally and internationally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It attempts to fight child trafficking by giving interested parties the opportunity to legally take on children they would wish to have.</li> </ul>
	POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aimed at ensuring education for all and Universal Primary Education through addressing challenges relating to access, equity and improving quality.</li> <li>Proposes policies and strategies to expand access, achieve equity and improve quality including early child hood development and education, the primary education and secondary education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If well implemented, it will enable reduction of child trafficking and related activities by ensuring that all children of school going age are in school and attain the required skills.</li> </ul>
TANZANIA	THE CHILDREN'S ACT 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for the treatment of delinquent children and young persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
	THE SEXUAL OFFENCES SPECIAL PROVISIONS ACT 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits people from procuring people of all ages and sexes with or without their consent within and outside the country.</li> <li>Also prohibits detaining of children or persons without their consent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act is against child trafficking since it prohibits the procurement of children within and outside TZ but also prohibits detaining of persons with or without consent.</li> </ul>
	EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits employment of children under the age of 14 unless doing light work which may not be harmful to his/her</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although it is against child trafficking by prohibiting activities that encourage</li> </ul>

Country	Law	Key Issues	Remarks
		attendance of school and participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits employment of children under 18 in mines or employment inappropriate to the child's age</li> </ul>	trafficking such as Employment of children, it contradicts itself when it encourages employment in light work which is not specified.
	THE ADOPTION ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages legal adoption of children ensuring their protection from dangers of trafficking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
	THE EDUCATION ACT (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasises compulsory education of all children of school going age ( 7 years plus)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good Implementation the policy would reduce child trafficking as would be victims will be in school.</li> </ul>
	THE CHILDREN'S ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits discrimination of children emphasising their entitlement to enjoying their rights to education, survival and development. It also emphasises, special measures of protection for handicapped children.</li> <li>It further protects children against all forms of child labour, abuse and torture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
UGANDA	THE CHILDRENS ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasises provision of care , protection and maintenance and provision of local authority support for children</li> <li>Stipulates that children have the right to stay with parents, protection of children from harmful employment, it also safeguards children and promotes reconciliation between parents and children.</li> </ul>	
	THE EMPLOYMENT ACT (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits employment of children under 12 except with light work and under the supervision of an adult aged over 18 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a contradiction and it ceases to protect</li> </ul>
	THE PENAL CODE ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condemns kidnapping of minors under 14 (males and those under 16 if female) from lawful guardians.</li> <li>The act recommends that those guilty of kidnapping be subjected to 10 years imprisonment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

Unfortunately, as noted by many informants in almost all study countries, even where some laws exist, they are rarely implemented.

### Knowledge of the laws

Knowledge of existing laws about child trafficking was generally scanty in all the four study countries. During household interviews, just 12% of adults accepted knowing any laws that deal with child tracking. When asked to explain further, just broadly said arresting those found involved in trafficking (10%).

Key informants felt that absence of specific laws on child trafficking that clearly state and define the term child trafficking at national and local levels contribute to the persistent problem of child trafficking.

Participants in VIPP and key informant interviews reported lack of awareness even among policy makers and law enforcers about the problem of child trafficking to have led to the intensity of the problem and its consequences on children. Reportedly, there is a general perception that the movement of children is normal and child trafficking tends to be regarded as a harmless activity to the extent that the need to report to authorities when children have gone missing may not be appreciated.

### 2.7.3 Existing Interventions

In each of the four countries, there exist some interventions, though generally at a small scale level. In Ethiopia's for example, Labour and Social Affairs Ministry was noted to be networking with police and the immigration office to reunite returnee trafficked children with their families. In all countries of study, ANPPCAN was noted to be working on issues of children that are abused and neglected. Among them are those that have been trafficked, specifically reuniting the children as in the case study below:

*Farida was in form three in Uganda when she dropped out of school due to the lack of school fees. One of her aunts talked to her stepmother because her mother was dead to let her go to Kenya where she would work for sometime, make money then go back. The girl was enticed to go to Loitoktok, make money and go back. Her travel to Loitoktok was uneventful and she was introduced to her host family and the agreement was that she would be paid Ksh2000 per month.*

*Paradoxically, she was engaged in hard labour that included; herding the cattle, farm work, domestic chore just to mention but a few, with no pay. To make matters worse the man of the house made sexual advances but she remained adamant. Her attempts to ask for her money so that she could go back to school were met with death threats from her employer. Finally she sought audience with the chief and was later brought to the anti child trafficking committee with the help of ANPPCAN. Her employers were arraigned in court and the survivor was repatriated to Uganda where she is being supported by ANPPCAN Uganda.*

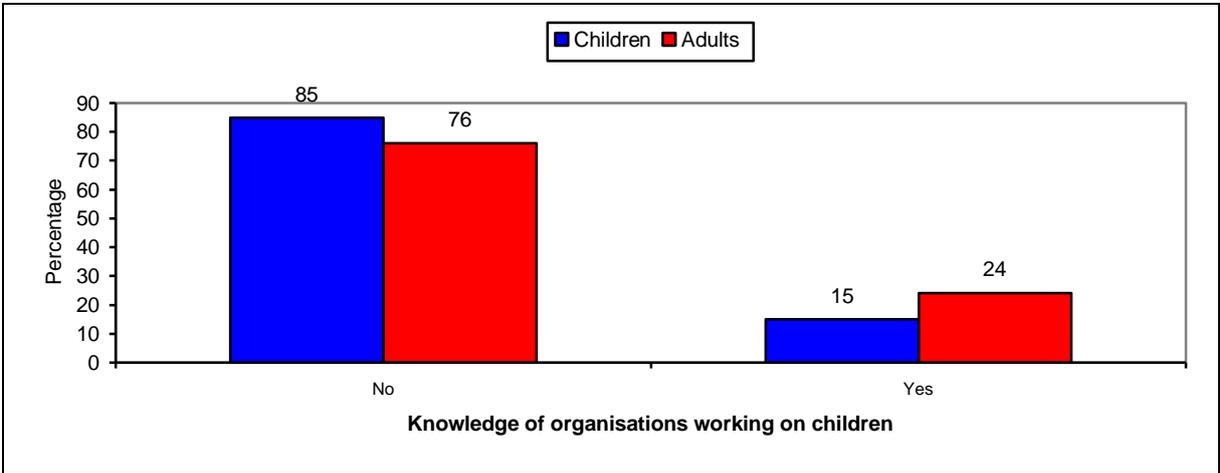
Similarly, Red Cross was noted to be involved in reuniting children that had lost relatives due to conflict not child trafficking. In addition, there are some awareness campaigns. In Kenya The provincial administration, homeless children's centres and the church were noted to be active players in repatriating rescued children, assisting children in the local areas and enlightening people to restrict children's movement respectively. In Ethiopia awareness creation on child trafficking was mainly done by an organisation known as Beso II Sekogna through sessions in schools and communities in the Woredas. In Uganda the assumption was that the police, community development officers and probation officers who are directly involved in the welfare of children are taking lead in awareness creation and share information on the likely victims of child trafficking.

There were however concerns in all the study countries that due to lack of awareness about the intensity of the problem, not much is being done at the national levels to try and curb down child trafficking. Consultations with the adults indicate that awareness creation has been done at a limited scale, reported by just 37% of the respondents. The limited direct involvement of organisations working with children in child trafficking issues was also a concern. Key informants also noted reluctance of would be advocates of child trafficking, to an extent that some of them are also partly involved in the trafficking continuum.

**Community of interventions**

Overall there was limited knowledge of the agencies and government interventions on child trafficking among community level respondents in all the study countries as indicated by both the qualitative and quantitative data. In several communities interventions are perhaps not available. Only 15% of the children’s responses indicated knowing the child trafficking networks and interventions compared to 85% of the responses who did not know of any organisations or networks working on issues of child trafficking. Similarly, 76% of the adult responses did not know about organisations working on child trafficking as illustrated in the figure below.

**Figure 16: Knowledge of organisations working on children**



Evidence from all study countries indicates that not much has been done to control child trafficking at community levels. The few activities noted to be present were more indirect, although some of these are significant in preventing the problem. Areas of interventions by most of the agencies were addressing poverty issues and increasing community awareness on general child care, but not directly on child trafficking. Nevertheless, the activities contribute to addressing factors behind child trafficking, such as poverty and poor well-being of children. For example by addressing poverty and sensitising communities on children’s rights. Yet these interventions were mainly reported by key informants during the VIPP sessions mainly by Civil Society Organizations and at small scale level.

**Table 11: Examples of CSOs Reported to be with activities related to Child Trafficking in study sites**

Country	Agency	Intervention
Uganda	Youth Abraise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer clubs helping in recovery and integration of formerly trafficked Children?</li> </ul>
	Innovation For Practical Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poverty Eradication</li> </ul>
	Global Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skills training</li> </ul>

Country	Agency	Intervention
	CCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing poverty by empowering communities training on children's rights in schools and communities</li> </ul>
	BUCOFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelter and skills development</li> </ul>
	TPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training in skills and resettlement of children</li> </ul>
	BAMACODA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIV and AIDS, sensitisation to girls and rehabilitation of former sex workers</li> </ul>
	Happy child hood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADVOCACAY and child protection</li> </ul>
	IHUNEMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitisation on HIV and rehabilitation of former sex workers</li> </ul>
<b>Tanzania</b>	KINSHAI(Kilimanjaro Natives Against HIV/AIDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide school fees and food to orphans.</li> </ul>
	KIWAKUKI (kikundi cha Wanawake Kupambana na Ukimwi Kilimajaro)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides support for health services and food for people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans.</li> </ul>
	Regional Facilitating Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing food and school fees for people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans.</li> </ul>
<b>Kenya</b>	Constituency Development Fund (CDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of school bursaries to vulnerable children</li> </ul>
	World Vision Kenya / Kuret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting orphans in education</li> <li>Capacity building of the district child labour committees</li> </ul>
	Rural Education and Enhancement Programmes (REEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rescue abused children and supporting them through education scholarships, buying uniforms and relief food</li> <li>Training children on their rights</li> <li>Awareness creation and advocacy on the rights of children</li> </ul>
	International Child Support (ICS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting REEP to train paralegals on the rights of children</li> </ul>
	KAACR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reproductive health in adolescence for schools</li> <li>Awareness campaigns and advocacy on the rights of children to public and the youth</li> </ul>
	Kenya Orphans Development Programme (KORDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarships for children</li> <li>Education through ECD centre support</li> <li>Training of ECD teachers for DECECE programme</li> <li>Giving psycho-social support to abused children</li> </ul>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Beso II Sekogna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working for the welfare for</li> </ul>

Country	Agency	Intervention
		the children

It is possible that there were other interventions in all the four countries of the study, but awareness was minimal. At community, more than half of both adult and children respondents knew nothing being done to address child trafficking. It is therefore important to note that awareness creation is a key intervention that needs to be thought about if any interventions are to be put in place to reduce child trafficking. This should be at all levels (individual, household and community) on the existence and the consequences of the problem.

#### 2.7.4 What can be done to reduce child trafficking

Although not much has been done to control child trafficking, interviewed children and adults acknowledged that some thing can be done by different people and community members as illustrated in the subsequent sections.

Discussions with adults revealed that children have a role to play in the fight against child trafficking. Some of what they could do is indicated in the table below

**Table 12: What children can do to advocate against child trafficking**

Options on what should be done	Frequency	Percentage
Beware of strangers	53	29
Report those giving them offers	26	14
Respect parents	25	14
Form groups advocating against child trafficking	19	10
Not loiter in the village	18	10
Be taught good behaviour	14	8
Children should demand for their rights	12	7
Protect themselves	10	6
Children should attend school	5	3
Be satisfied with the little parents can afford	1	1

Twenty nine percent (29%) of the responses from adults urged children to beware of strangers while 14% urged them to report those who give them offers as well as obeying their parents. Children were also urged not to loiter in the village but form groups advocating against child trafficking.

On the other hand, children too felt that both parents and teachers could do something to save their counterparts from being trafficked. Among the many that children thought parents could do include; taking their children to school, taking good care of their children, restricting their movement, providing basic needs, explaining to their children the dangers of trafficking, caution them to be careful with strangers, not to marry off their children at an early age and not to sell their children as in the table below:

**Table 13: What parents can do to address child trafficking**

Role of parents	Frequency	Percentage
Explain dangers of trafficking to their children	20	31
Provide basic needs to their children	16	25
Take children to school	9	14
Take care of their children	7	11

Be strict with their children	5	8
Restrict movement of their children	4	6
Advice children to be careful with strangers	1	2
Not to marry off their children at early ages	1	2
Not to sell their children	1	2
<b>Total</b>	64	100.0

A higher percentage of children (31%) felt parents should explain the dangers of child trafficking while 25% felt it was important to note that parents provide basic needs for their children to prevent them from being trafficked. Fourteen percent (14%) of the children felt that taking them to school would be a preventive measure and 11% of them advised parents to take good care of their children.

Children's responses that ranked highly on the role of teachers, included; educating children on the dangers of child trafficking (38%), reporting cases of child trafficking to authorities (26%), sensitising parents on the dangers of child trafficking (20%), as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 14: Possible role of teachers in addressing child trafficking**

<b>Role of teachers in reducing child trafficking</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Educate children on dangers of trafficking	25	38
Report child trafficking cases to authorities	17	26
To sensitise parents on dangers of child trafficking	13	20
Educate children on their rights	5	8
Be strict on absentee in school	4	6
Give quality education	2	3
<b>Total</b>	66	100.0

Other roles that children felt teachers would play to reduce child trafficking included educating children on their rights, being strict on absentee children in schools and giving quality education. It is important for governments and organisations to facilitate the partners in ensuring they play their suggested roles as this is likely to positively impact on child trafficking.

Suggestions given by participants in all the four study countries on what could be done mainly focused on moral and other behavioural factors neglecting the major push and pull factors such as poverty, the search employment. There is therefore a need to create awareness on the need to improve living standards, reduce poverty and enhancing productive capacities to reduce child trafficking in the long run.

## 2.8 Good Practices in Addressing the Problem of Child Trafficking

From the overall observations, there is still scanty information in best practices especially given the fact that not many interventions are in place to address the problem. For the few interventions in place, existing data does not have defined practices in addressing the problem of child trafficking and this is attributed to the fact that the different organisations in place are not specifically set out to address child trafficking issues but are mainly working on children in general and OVCs. Child trafficking issues are only addressed (if at all they are) when they happen to fall in the jurisdiction of other problems being addressed. However respondents reported the following as their perceived good practices:

### *Strict immigration regulations*

In Ethiopia, the strict controlling system of the immigration department that is close to the border checks travel documents and the legality of crossing the border. This was noted to be a good practice. An organization Beso II Sekogna has also undertaken steps to work with relevant government bureaus like police and immigration offices in reuniting separated children with their families. Preventive measures such as birth registration were also being implemented in Ethiopia and police officers established child affairs unit which is responsible for monitoring different child abuse cases in the study area. Children in Ethiopia mentioned the controlling system of the immigration department that is close to the boarder in checking travel documents and the legality of crossing the border.

### *Identification of potential victims and re-uniting them with families*

In Uganda, police officers were said to take the street children back to their parents while those that are too young are taken to the probation officers or organisations dealing with street children to trace their families and return them to their homes.

### *Training and sensitisation*

In Kenya, training and community sensitisation appears to be a widely applied strategy especially by NGOs to eliminate child trafficking. This mainly involved training of; advisory councils on child protection and child rights, police officers on child protection and investigation of cases in a child friendly way, children so that they are empowered too and are able to take charge of their lives and to enable them speak out against the ills happening to them, opinion leaders, youth groups, and women groups so that they advocate for the Children's Act and bring on board issues of children at their places of work. The police response in Kenya does not directly focus on child trafficking but rather on evils done to children by those taking custody of them such as their employers.

In all the four study countries, there was evidence of cooperation, especially in situations, where trafficked children had been recovered as in the case below.

*Angeline Wanjiru aged 15 years from Entarara village, Rombo division, got lured by a woman neighbour during the funeral preparations for Wanjiru's mother, to escape and be taken to Nairobi where she was to be linked by another woman in Ongata Rongai-Nairobi as a domestic servant. Angeline disappeared immediately after the burial. Angeline's father reported the case to Anne Mumo who is a Volunteer Children Officer in Loitokitok who sent the girl's father to Rombo District Officer for assistance. Coincidentally, after some days, Angeline's teacher met her at Nyamakima (Nairobi) bus stage. Angeline lied to her teacher that she had been sent by her father to her aunt who lives in Ongata Rongai. This was not the case because Angeline was working in Ongata Rongai as a maid.*

*After three weeks had elapsed and the teacher had not yet seen Angeline in school, he decided to pay a visit and inquire why Angelina has taken so long in Nairobi yet the school was still in session. Angelina's father indicated to the teacher that he had no sister in Nairobi and that he had not been aware of the where about of his daughter.*

*The father later on gathered information that his neighbour was responsible for the disappearance of Angeline. He reported the same to Rombo DO who duly summoned the suspect. Eventually, the suspect asked Angeline's employer in Ongata Rongai to return the child. There were no obstacles in this case as everyone was cooperative including the suspects. The child currently lives with her aunt in Entarara*

#### *Registration at birth*

Registration at Birth, such as that being promoted in Uganda by UNICEF is a good practice. This is useful in making available vital statistics on children which can be used for example in identifying and tracing trafficked children.

#### *Research and dissemination*

The conducting of research as done by ANPPCAN to get a full understanding of the problem and dissemination of the findings to the different stakeholders so as to create awareness is a good practice.

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## 2.9 Conclusion and Recommendations

### 2.9.1 Conclusion

This small study has exposed some of the issues surrounding CT in the east African region. The problem is real, although the real magnitude may not be accurately presented because of the complexity and hidden nature of the problem. Trafficking of children is a dynamic phenomenon, which may involve movement of children across and within national borders.

The push and pull factors re-enforce each other in abetting the problem of child trafficking. The general poor environment where children live, making them easily manipulated if one promises better standards of living. As the high level deprivation pushes children, the quest for a better life by pulls children towards being trafficked. On the other hand, the poverty stricken parents and guardians may feel relieved of the burden to care for these children given the difficulty in providing for them. Yet they also expect to receive some income or other material benefits if these children are relocated to other areas where they are earning some income. Perpetuators often take advantage of poverty and lack of awareness on the part of parents and guardians about the likely exploitation and mistreatment of children once taken by people promising the better lives.

The process of trafficking is complex, where traffickers may contact the potential victim or his or her family, indicating that in many cases traffickers have prior knowledge and information of the victim or his/her family. It is no surprise that orphans and poor families are the common sources trafficked children. Such families, which are often isolated and lack the important information, may as well contact the brokers.

It is evident that there is a general lack of awareness and sometimes the problem is considered a normal practice. Lack of full understanding and awareness also exists among would-be protectors of making the children even more vulnerable and missing the much needed protection. Lack of specific policies and laws makes it difficult to protect the children. Yet even the existing ones are in draft or even not fully enforced and implemented.

Findings from this study however indicate optimism regarding the potential to address the problem. Presence of government structures and agencies willing to engage in activities that address the problem provides a good opportunity for interventions. Some CSOs already working at community level are doing some work such as related to deal with poverty, education and other interventions that address the root causes (push factors) of trafficking, although at small scale level and not directly stimulated by the trafficking problem. With some awareness on the problem, this potential can be better exploited and activities enhanced.

This study that was conducted as a joint project by the different ANPPCAN country chapters in the four neighboring countries, demonstrates the extent to which an effective response to child trafficking requires to be collaborative both inter and intra country, comprehensive, integrated and targeted at multiple levels within society. The partnership requires going beyond ANPPCAN, but also between governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society. Similarly, the responses which need to be in the interest of children need to recognize the gender perspective, as the study has shown that child trafficking has a gender element in terms of intensity and nature of activities engaged in by male and female children.

## 2.9.2 Recommendations

Various recommendations were given by participants in all the four study countries. Presentation is however not country specific but rather general. Efforts were made to desegregate the recommendations according to the various parties involved in child trafficking including children, parents/ community, the central government, law enforcers and organisations working with children as presented below:

### *General*

- (i) Sensitization of community awareness for people around the border to create awareness so that they may understand child trafficking as a crime. During these sensitizations, local people should be encouraged to report any thing concerning child trafficking at the police station. Sensitization was almost universally recommended by all respondents of different categories, as one of them noted below:

“People need to be sensitized, there should be awareness rising among the community so we may stand together to defeat this illegal business” (**Key Informant – Moyale, Tanzania**).

- (ii) The person we recruited at the border will work on it in collaboration with the coordinator and the ministry of community Development Gender and Children.
- (iii) Establishing a network with other agencies such as Civil Society Organizations which operate at local level to integrate them the issue of child trafficking into their day to day activities.
- (iv) Conducting training to government employees, from departments of community development, police, immigration, judiciary and civil society, especially at the border posts where the activity is most prominent.
- (v) Training of journalist who will help us conveying message to the community. Working closely with local authorities especially the village executives, who know their people better. These are potential people who can reveal to us different issues happening in their villages including children who are trafficked, or who lost without knowing whether they are kidnapped.
- (vi) Since there are more push than pull factors, it is important to ensure that interventions put in place target communities of origin e.g., improving livelihoods in home countries thus solving the problem at the source rather than at the countries of destination.

The starting point should be improving the livelihoods and living conditions in the countries of origin. This can be through reducing poverty together with the increasing levels of inequality since the two are major causes of people’s involvement in trafficking. From this particular study, it is evident that sometimes parents connive with traffickers to get money while others consent with their children with the hope that children’s incomes will contribute to the household incomes. In addition, some children choose to autonomously migrate to seek improved livelihoods and living conditions. If efforts are made by all countries to improve the living conditions of children by ensuring redistribution of social services , providing the most affected with basic needs but also to involve their parents, guardians and care takers in income generating activities, the push factors will be addressed and both children and guardians will stop looking elsewhere for improved livelihoods and will concentrate on working within their boundaries and locations thus reducing the problem of child trafficking. One official observed that “ *Without addressing the issue of poverty, inequality and general living conditions in*

*home countries, it is obvious that people will continue trying all means of moving from one country to another irrespective of whether policies are in place or not*". Respondent - Uganda

### **To Children**

- It was observed that there is need for children to fulfil their responsibilities as children including being obedient and respecting their parents, guardians and care takers decisions as well as listening to their advice since moral decay is one of the causes of the increased child trafficking. ***"If children play their role, it will be easy to implement the law or policy that the government will make"***. Religious leader- Tanzania
- Evidence from research indicated that children are more knowledgeable about child trafficking compared to the adults. It is therefore important to encourage them share knowledge and dangers of child trafficking with their parents/ guardians. It is also important to encourage peer education on child trafficking as this will go along way in informing children that have scanty knowledge on child trafficking as noted ***" use of children who went through child trafficking to sensitise their fellow children can create a big impact "*** participant- Uganda
- It was recommended that Children be actively involved in the anti child trafficking campaigns and in developing programmes and strategies to curb down child trafficking.

### **To Parents/ community**

Since parents neglect and abandonment of their children was identified as a major cause and maintainer of child trafficking in all the four countries, it was recommended that parents should be educated about the importance of being more responsible for their children and if need be, they should be sensitised and reminded of their duties and responsibilities as parents, guardians and care takers. In addition, parents should be challenged to be role models of their children as they are the first teachers of their children. They should get to know the extent to which their acts impact on the population and the future of the country as noted ***"Parents are the first teachers of children, anything they do will be reflected in their children. If they are involved in child trafficking, even the children will do the same and we will be breeding a nation of future traffickers"*** religious leader- Uganda

Parents should be sensitized about their responsibilities to their children. For example, they should not allow their children to be taken by the people who are not well known or those they don't trust.

***"If parents played their role it would be easy to implement laws and policies made by governments"***, (Key informant – Moyale Tanzania).

- It is further recommended that child help desks be created in communities. These will serve as the first points of contact for any one with child trafficking issues such as those reporting missing children, the children suspecting parents involvement, any reports on a suspected trafficker, to the police as well as the organisations working on trafficking.
- There is a need for coordination between parents and schools/ teachers on children's movement during school days and hours. This will enable easy tracking of children trafficked from school.

- Communities should make by laws which will protect children who are in school and those out of school from being trafficked.
- In order to overcome child trafficking the NGO actors suggested the community should report to the police whenever they come across trafficked children and establish a steering committee that monitors children issue in general and child trafficking cases in particular.
- There is a need for the community to network with police to ensure trafficked children are quickly reported and followed up instead of waiting for two to three days before reporting to police.
- Parents should be urged to change their attitude and expectations from children. This was mainly recommended for those who consider their children to be sources of income to the family and therefore make plans to involve children in child labour or sell them to traffickers to enable them get money.

***To Law enforcers***

- It strongly came out that law enforcers do not arrest child traffickers as required but sometimes fine or just leave them. It was for example noted that in Kenya about 300 cases are heard in a court of law in a year as noted by one respondent yet more cases of child trafficking are reported. This was blamed on corruption and limited knowledge of child trafficking as a crime among the law enforcers. There is need therefore to strengthen the law by prosecuting child traffickers but also sensitising officers on child trafficking.
- It was recommended that officers at the border and the police department should be given more training and refresher courses after a given period of time to update them on the changing strategies of the traffickers but also to enable them share ideas and case studies on how best to deals with some of the cases and challenges they face.
- Law enforcement and high penalties to culprits convicted of trafficking were recommended in all the study countries. It strongly came out that weak law enforcement was a major cause and maintainer of child trafficking hence calling for more serious penalties to the victims of trafficking.
- Since child trafficking is within and between countries, forming a joint anti-trafficking unit between the affected countries was highly recommended as this will enable but also ease the process of tracking trafficked children beyond their home countries.

***To NGO/ Child care agencies***

- There is need to create partnerships among the organisations and agencies working on child trafficking within but also amongst countries. This will enable them identify / share their areas of coverage and roles to avoid duplication but also identify critical areas that require targeting. This will further enable the various organisations share strategies on how best they can work to curb down child trafficking. In addition, such partnerships can enable them share the best practices on what has worked in some of the countries/ areas and can therefore be adopted elsewhere.
- Similarly, it was recommended that NGOs and development partners should collaborate and share ideas on research findings as these can go a long way in informing the

strategies but also identifying capacity building needs among the different players. Such partners were urged to also involve religious leaders in their work especially because they are key people and can play a major role in awareness creation and advocacy on child trafficking.

- Since knowledge of child trafficking is still limited, NGO's and other organisations working on child trafficking and children's issues should create awareness on child rights and its dangers. This should be at both national and local levels to all parties involved including policy makers, implementers, law enforcers, parents, children and traffickers.
- Advocacy against bad cultural practices that hurt children was also recommended and such practices include early marriages, child sacrifice and forcing children into child labour to enable them support the family among others.
- Coordination and collaboration among government, NGOs, local leaders, children, youth and the community was highly recommended as working together as partners is likely to positively impact on the campaign to stop child trafficking.

#### *To Central governments*

- Participants in all countries where the study was carried out noted that in order to address the problem of child trafficking, the starting point should be improving the livelihoods and living conditions of people in the countries of origin. This can be through reducing poverty together with the increasing levels of inequality since the two are major causes of people's involvement in trafficking. From this particular study, it is evident that some times parents connive with traffickers to get money while others consent with their children with the hope that children's incomes will contribute to the household incomes.
- In addition, some children choose to autonomously migrate to seek improved livelihoods and living conditions. If efforts are made by all countries to improve the living conditions by ensuring redistribution of social services, providing the most affected with basic needs but also to involve their parents, guardians and care takers in income generating activities, the push factors will be addressed and both children and guardians will stop looking elsewhere for improved livelihoods and will concentrate on working within their boundaries and locations thus reducing the problem of child trafficking. One official observed

*“ Without addressing the issue of poverty, inequality and general living conditions in home countries, it is obvious that people will continue trying all means of moving from one country to another irrespective of whether policies are in place or not”.*

**Respondent – Uganda**

- Eliminating child trafficking is a problem that can hardly be addressed by one country. It rather requires combined effort through **inter-country collaboration among** the four countries. This includes **inter-country legal harmonization** to render the national legal systems of the neighboring countries more effective in dealing with transnational aspects of trafficking– in terms of prevention, investigation, prosecution, as well as victim protection. A coalition of organisations working on children in the four countries could also be formed. In countries where such organisations are limited or non existent, there is need to urgently establish them. This will enable intra country

coordination and collaboration to track the traffickers but also to ensure that children identified can be easily linked back to their countries of origin. It will further ease the process of tracing the trafficked children and returning them to their original places of origin.

- Since evidence from research revealed that the major destination country of all the trafficked children is Kenya, the rest of the three countries should work hand in hand with the Kenyan authorities to strengthen the law on child labour in all the affected countries. In addition, Legislators should come up with a legal framework that will aid in the prosecution and punishing the traffickers, employers of trafficked children as well as children that are found in other countries illegally. This will to some extent scare off some of the child trafficker's and their employers as noted:

*“Once employers of trafficked children are charged, they will deny them jobs and if such children are denied jobs, they will not migrate to those areas and countries but for as long as they can find employment, they will continue being trafficked and autonomously move thus increasing the problem” respondent – Uganda*

- It was also recommended that governments of all countries strengthen boarder regulations but also recruit more officials working at boarders to ensure there are no excuses for not fulfilling their duties. Refresher courses for officers working at the boarders were recommended to enable them cope with the ever changing and increasing techniques used by those trafficking children as well as the children that are autonomously moving.
- Law against Child Trafficking - Governments should prepare a policy on child trafficking. The policy should state clearly the term child trafficking according to different social cultural context.
- Sensitisation on child trafficking was recommended in all the four countries. It was noted that not many people know the dangers of child trafficking. It is therefore important to sensitise the masses on the problem and its likely dangers. Clear understanding of the dangers of child trafficking will ease policy implementation as people will know that it is illegal and will report the culprits and suspected traffickers to the authorities other than recognising it as a normal activity. It was recommended that public places such as religious gatherings, local council gatherings and village meetings together with the media be used to ensure grass root sensitisation since people at the grass root levels and in rural areas are the most commonly affected.
- Since child trafficking has been recognised as a problem in all the countries of the study, there is need to develop policies on child trafficking in countries were they are non existing but also to strengthen them in countries that already have them. It was emphasised that the policies should clearly define the term child trafficking putting into consideration the different social cultural contexts of the countries and communities. It was further recommended that lower local government structures should make by laws which will protect children in their communities from being trafficked.
- In all the four countries, it strongly came out that people's knowledge on the policies and laws on child trafficking was scanty and limited to very few people. It is therefore important to sensitise people on the policies and laws on child trafficking to enable them get a clear understanding as this will ease their implementation but also to avoid leaving them as paper policies. Free movement across boarders was a key cause and

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maintainer of child trafficking. It is therefore important for countries to revisit their cross boarder agreements to ensure people travelling with children under 18 and children travelling on their own are dealt with more stringently. Short cuts that are used by people trafficking children and children who are autonomously migrating should be closed or guarded to ensure they scrutinise people who use them to cross the boarder. The identified routes used by those trafficking children should also be followed up and closely guarded and supervised to reduce the number of children being trafficked.

- Creation of anti-child trafficking units in the local governments/ districts was recommended by participants in Uganda but this can also work elsewhere since it eases the process of research on child trafficking, awareness creation and advocacy but also networking with national and international organisations. With such units in place, reporting missing cases and tracing them becomes easier.
- It is important for the central governments to recognise and learn from the various measures community members are using to get back the formerly trafficked children as these will inform the process of identifying gaps in existing structures.
- Strengthening the existing structures dealing with children rights was recommended in all countries. It is likely that if this is done, the role of organisations in fighting child trafficking will be more evident and recognised by both government and community members.
- Boarder controls need to be strengthened in order to control the flow of people at the borders. Registration of people moving in and out of the countries at borders should be tightened as this contributes to child trafficking since its difficult to identify who is a trafficker and who is being trafficked.

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## **ANNEXES**

List of people interviewed