Enumeration of Children on the Streets in Uganda across Four Locations:
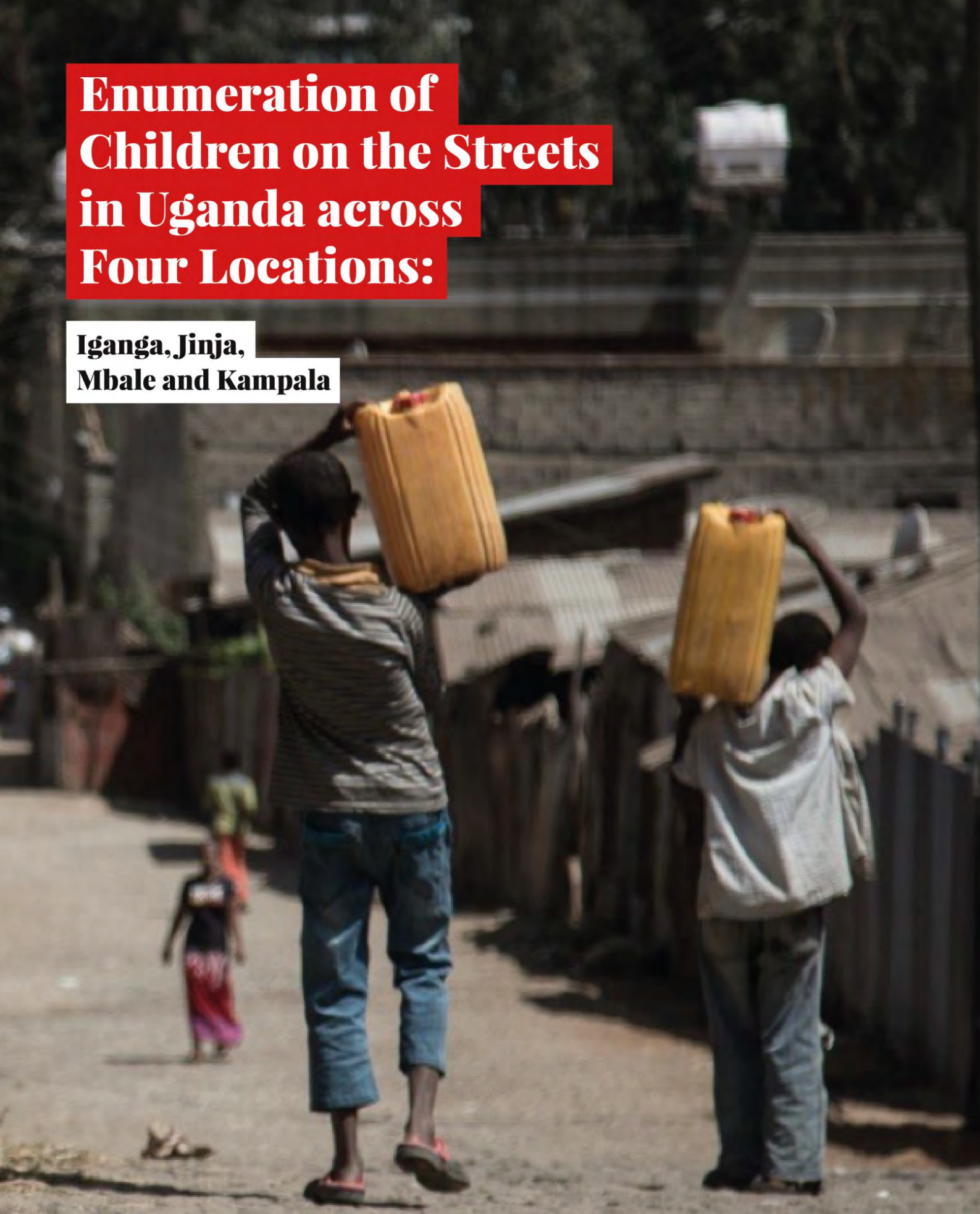
Iganga, Jinja, Mbale and Kampala

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF GENDER,
LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Foreword

Street connected children are one of the most vulnerable and invisible populations in the world. It is a growing global problem, though the actual number is unknown. The 2017 Enumeration of Street Connected Children, a study undertaken in Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale, was intended to address this gap by building on the existing body of knowledge in the area of children living and working on the streets.

The government of Uganda as a signatory to the global and regional frameworks on the rights of the child is committed to ensuring that all children in the country realize their full potential. This study is, therefore, important in informing the development of comprehensive, long-term national strategies on street connected children; addressing both prevention and response.

On behalf of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, I would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to Retrak-Hope for Justice who coordinated and committed financial resources to facilitate this study and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) for the technical support provided during the exercise.

The study report gives many insights into the problem of street connected children in Uganda. I therefore highly recommend this report to all stakeholders to inform inter-sectoral interventions on street connected children in Uganda to enable all the affected children grow and develop in safe families.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

James Ebitu

FOR: PERMANENT SECRETARY

Enumeration of Children on the Streets in Uganda across Four Locations: Iganga, Jinja, Mbale, & Kampala

June 2018

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Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

Introduction

Around the world, very few reliable estimates exist of the populations of children living and/or working on the streets. These children are often missed by national censuses or other surveys as they may be absent from households, or live in vulnerable and transient households which are not included. In Uganda, a group of local stakeholders working with children on the streets, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD) and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), were interested in undertaking an enumeration of the street population in Iganga, Jinja, Kampala and Mbale. These locations were chosen because it was thought that children move through Mbale, Iganga and Jinja in the east of Uganda towards the capital Kampala where there is a visibly large population of children on the streets.

A review of recent literature pertaining to children on the streets in Uganda revealed that there is a lack of reliable estimates on the numbers of children on the streets in Uganda. A figure of 10,000 children is cited in a number of studies, however the actual study that produced this figure could not be traced.

In line with several recent studies, this research project adopted the dual system estimate method to enumerating children on the street. This is a suitable method for estimating hard-to-reach populations as it does not assume that every individual will be found. Instead two counts are undertaken and the results matched in order to determine the overlap and thus the proportion that were missed. It is then possible to estimate the whole population by taking into account those who were missed. This was complemented by a small qualitative study to provide greater insight into the factors contributing to the presence of children on the streets and to their experiences on the streets.

The goal of this research project is to inform policy and practice in Uganda by providing an:

- Estimate of the number of children on the streets in Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale;
- Insight into the characteristics of these children; and
- Exploration of children's perspectives of their engagement on the streets.

The focus of this project was informed by a literature review and consultations with the Ugandan government and local stakeholders who are currently working with children on the streets, as well as through engagement with children themselves who were involved in Retrak's programmes in Kampala.

Terminology

For this study, definitions applying to the terms children "living on the streets" and children "working on the streets" are adopted from the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights[1]. When referring to children living on the streets, it is meant to reflect children sleeping on the streets or in public spaces multiple times per week, and children working on the streets reflects children who worked on the streets for most days of the week, but did not sleep in public spaces or on the street. We acknowledge that the International Labour Organisation defines "working" in the context of child labour; however, for the purposes of this study, children connected to the street in the capacities defined above do not always fall into this category.

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[1] UNCRC: https://www.streetchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-07fc61ac163e50acc82d83eee9ebb5c2/2017/07/General-Comment-No.-21-2017-on-children-in-street-situations.pdf
OHCHR: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf

Findings

Estimates of children on the streets

Based on the dual systems estimate methodology, it is estimated that in both Jinja and Mbale there are close to 600 children, aged 7-17 years, living on the streets (children reporting that they slept on the streets or in other public places most nights a week) in each town; whilst in Kampala there are over 2,600 children, aged 7-17 years, living on the streets. Very few children were found to be living on the streets in Iganga.

It is estimated that there are several thousand children working on the streets (children reporting they slept in a home most nights a week but worked on the streets one or more days a week), aged 7-17 years, in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale. Mbale had the highest number of children working on the streets at over 4,400, Jinja had over 3,100, whilst Iganga had fewer with just over 2,600. In contrast, in Kampala there are estimated to be 1,400 children working on the streets.

The literature review and expert consultations highlighted that children on the streets originating from Karamoja in north-eastern Uganda have attracted much attention since 2006 when a large number migrated to Kampala and other towns, following a period of conflict in Karamoja largely. Stakeholders in Uganda are keen to gain insights into the situation of the Karamojong on the streets. Therefore, using the dual systems estimate method based on the number of children reporting to be of Karamojong ethnicity, it is estimated that there are roughly 3,600 Karamojong children, aged 7-17 years, living and/or working on the streets in Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale.

Characteristics of children on the streets

Less than 10% of the children who live on the streets were girls whilst almost 30% of the children working on the streets were girls. However, within the Karamojong children in Kampala 96% of Karamojong children working on the streets and 73% of the Karamojong children living on the streets were girls.

Across the figures for children living and working in the streets, the study found that a higher proportion of children ranged 12 and above, as compared to younger children. A higher percentage of children begin to work on the streets at a younger age, with 22% of children working on the streets aged 7 to 10 years (compared to 9% of children living on the streets). For both children who live and work on the streets, there was a higher percentage of younger girls than boys, however there were generally fewer girls on the streets as their age increases.

The majority of the street children in each location were from the dominant ethnic group in that district. But this varied from close to 75% Basoga in Iganga to 34% Basoga in Jinja. In every location, the second largest group were the Karamojong, on average 10% in each location. However, amongst the children working on the streets in Kampala, the Karamojong made up a quarter of the population.

When asked about where their family home is (in the sense of their rural village home), children on the streets in Mbale and Iganga were three times more likely to come from the surrounding district (40-50%) than those in Jinja and Kampala (10-15%). Children on the streets in Kampala were the most diverse in terms of the regional mix of their home villages, with children coming from all across the country. In Mbale, Iganga and Jinja most children were from homes in Eastern region.

When asked about where their parents are currently living, around 50% of children working on the streets and 25% of children living on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale had one or both parents living within the district. In Kampala, far fewer children reported that their parents were in the district, only 18% of children working on the streets and only 10% of children living on the streets.

Street life

70% of children on the streets reported that they have been on the streets for 2 years or less, a pattern that was very similar for all children on the streets and across all locations. Overall, more girls than boys have been on the streets for a shorter duration, with slightly over half of the girls having been on the streets for one year or less.

When asked how often they are on the streets, as expected the vast majority of the children who live on the streets reported that they are there every day. Amongst children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale around half are on the streets every day, whilst in Kampala over 80% of children working on the streets are doing so every day.

Most children working on the streets were involved in selling goods or preparing goods for sale as their main activity. For children living on the streets the most common activity was scavenging, followed by selling or preparing goods and carrying loads. When asked who they carry out their major activity with, most children across all locations reported undertaking their activity with other children. 23% of children working on the streets were doing so with family members and 10% with adults to whom they are not related. Girls were more likely than boys to be working with family members.

Children living on the streets reported mostly sleeping in the same place as their friends, around 80% across all locations.

Family life

Children working on the streets and returning to homes to sleep mostly reported sleeping in a home with family members in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale (86%), whilst in Kampala over half of slept in homes with other children.

Most children on the streets reported that they have both parents still alive, with very few being total orphans. However, children on the streets are more likely to be single or double orphans than the national average, especially those currently living on the streets (close to 50%). When compared with the national average, children living on the streets were much less likely to have previously lived with both parents and more likely to have lived with neither parent.

School life

About 5 in 6 children who live and work on the streets reported they had attended school at some point; however, 14% of the children reported that they had never been to school. A much greater proportion of Karamojong children on the streets have never been to school (36%) compared with the rest of the street population. Of the children who indicated they had enrolled at school at some point in the past, 80% of those who live on the streets reported they do not currently attend school, 38% of children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale never attend school, and in Kampala 71% of children working on the streets never attend school. By far the most common reason why children on the streets did not attend school is an inability to afford school costs including fees imposed by schools, uniform or other scholastic materials. On average, the students were 4 years behind for their age at school.

Engagement with juvenile institutions

Most children reported that they had not been to a government rehabilitation centre or remand home, especially amongst children working on the streets. Of those who had been to an institution two-thirds had been to Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre outside of Kampala, and a further 28% had been to Naguru remand home in Kampala. Most of the children left these institutions by escaping and running away.

Explanations of coming to the streets

The qualitative study allowed children to talk about how they came to the streets in more detail. It was clear that most children had had a poor, unhappy and unstable family experience. They spoke of how poverty affected their family, especially when the family situation broke down or changed due to separation or death of parents. This also often affected children's ability to attend school and access basic services.

> "When [my father] died, my mother ran away from us. She first left us there with my siblings… the house was made of mud, it collapsed because of rain. My siblings ran away from me, then I came to the streets and slept there with other children on the streets." (Female, 13 years old, Iganga)

Children also spoke of experiencing physical, emotional and sexual abuse in their families, also often as a result of poverty and family breakdown.

> "Our stepmother, would beat us. Our father would spend the whole day quarrelling and when he goes back to town our stepmother says why have you reported me to your father and she beats us again. She chases us away and says you go." (Female, 15 years old, Kampala)

Several children spoke about wanting to find a job and get their own money in order to continue with their education or support their family. This was often an influence in moving to the streets, especially when friends promised a good life, job opportunities or help from strangers. However, almost all the children reported that their expectations were not met.

> "So when he [friend] came to the village he told me: 'why is your stepmother mistreating you, why don't we go to Mbale on the streets?' He told me that there are good things on the streets." (Male, 14 years old, Mbale)

> "I thought I am going to get a job in Owino [market] since I had just come and knew how to work. But as you know, I realised the bosses shout a lot over nothing." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

Experiences on the streets

All the children reported that they faced some challenges while on the streets. However, those who were accompanied by family members reported to have an advantage due to the support from their elders. They offered protection and showed concern as to whether the child has eaten or has a good place to sleep.

Some of the girls reported that they had experienced rape and sexual abuse on the streets and many said that a lack of sanitary towels was a major challenge. Some girls found themselves with unwanted pregnancies and some ended up delivering their babies on the streets. It was clear that they lacked an appropriate way to report their cases and to seek medical attention. Boys reported that they were more exposed to physical violence and abuse by the police and the general public.

Several children spoke about the nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that have been involved in helping them on the streets: providing services such as food, clothing, washing, medical care, education and recreation. When they were reached by these organisations the children felt good, excited and loved. However, the children explained that some of the support was not regular or reliable, other felt that staff mistreated them and other spoke of being chased away and, at times, detained.

Only a few children had been to any government institution, but many children reported hearing that children were always badly treated. Those who had been to an institution spoke of being beaten or forced to do manual work, leading some to escape from the centres.

Discussion

> Live v work: There is a difference between children's experiences on the streets depending on whether they live on the streets or work on the streets.

Although categorisation of children on the streets is difficult, since children's engagement on the streets is fluid, this study found differences between children defined as living on the streets and those defined as working on the streets. Children living on the streets are on the streets both day and night. They sleep on the streets or in other public places most nights of the week, mainly sharing their sleeping places with friends. They have much weaker ties to their families, many of whom live far away. Less than 10% of children living on the streets are girls and very few children living on the streets are able to attend school, irrespective of their age or sex. In contrast children working on the streets are typically on the streets for all or part of the day and return to sleep in a home at night, often with family members. Many of these children still have strong ties with their family and are also attending school regularly, but they are likely to gradually stop going to school as they get older. Almost a third of children who work on the streets are girls.

> Push factors: Children mentioned a combination of poverty, family instability and violence, as well as difficulties with access to education, as key factor in pushing them to the streets.

By combining a qualitative study alongside the enumeration, this study has also been able to look at some of the factors which influence children's street engagement. Children mentioned a combination of poverty, family instability and violence as having a major role to play in pushing them to look for a better life elsewhere. The enumeration revealed that children on the streets are more likely to be either single or double orphans compared with the national average and are more likely not to live with their parents. Uganda's Children Act, the just concluded National Strategic Program of Interventions for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and the current draft National Child Policy all acknowledge child's rights and seek to address vulnerability, including that rising from poverty and family instability. Yet it is clear that many families are still not getting the support they need to fully care for their children. Whilst progress may be being made, inequalities persist and these are pushing children into further vulnerable situations on the streets.

In addition, both the enumeration and the qualitative study revealed difficulties with access to education as another key factor in children's presence on the streets. Although the enumeration showed that the majority of children on the streets had enrolled in school at some point in the past, in the qualitative interviews several children connected not being able to attend school as part of the reason for turning to the streets. Despite Universal Primary Education and elimination of school fees for primary school students, the main reason given for not attending school was an inability to meet the cost of school and several children explained that they began working in order to acquire funds to complete their education. Therefore, it is clear that despite laws and policies which should ensure children in Uganda can access primary education it is clear that children and families are still finding the cost of education prohibitive and children are turning to the streets and undertaking harmful work in order to provide for their needs.

> Kampala v Iganga, Jinja and Mbale: The situation for children on the streets in Kampala is different to the situation in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale. Children in Kampala are more likely to lack parental supervision and to live and work with other children.

The enumeration revealed that the situation for children on the streets in Kampala is quite different from the other locations. There are many more children living on the streets in Kampala compared with the other three towns, these children live further away from their families and have much weaker ties with them. The circumstances for those children working on the streets in Kampala are also quite different as

they lead lives much more similar to their counterparts who are living on the streets, lacking parental supervision and mostly living and working with other children.

The number of children estimated to be living on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale is much smaller than in Kampala, however, it is estimated that there are many more children working on the streets and returning home to sleep. Children working on the streets in these three towns mostly sleep at home with family within the town or surrounding district and many are combining work with school. Children living on the streets have much less connection with their family, mostly sleeping in the same place as their friends since their parents are not close by. The majority of those who live on the streets do not attend school.

> Girls v Boys: Girls are fewer in number on the streets, but report being more vulnerable to sexual abuse. Boys stay on the streets for longer and report experiencing more physical abuse and violence from the police and the general public.

Girls on the streets are far fewer in number, making up 20% of the street population, and have generally been on the streets for shorter periods of time compared with boys. Girls reported that they feel more vulnerable to sexual abuse so it is perhaps these safety concerns which prompt girls to find a way off the streets, perhaps through living with friends or by being pulled into commercial sex work. Boys make up the large majority of the street population, staying on the streets for many years. Perhaps for these reasons alone they are seen as more of a threat and a "problem" and so face physical abuse and violence from the police and the general public.

> Karamojong: The Karamojong children are the second largest ethnic group on the streets in each location, often living or working with their family, but rarely attending school.

The Karamojong have been a distinctive part of the population on the streets in Uganda since 2006 and it is noticeable that they make up the second largest ethnic group in each location. In Kampala especially, the Karamojong children are often living or working with their family, with 80% of Karamojong children on the streets returning to a home to sleep at night, close to half with their parents or other relatives. However, it should be noted that it is likely that most of these families are living in very poor conditions. There is a much higher proportion of girls amongst the Karamojong on the streets compared with the rest of the street population. This has been highlighted in other studies as having a cultural reason, since boys mainly work as livestock herders, whilst girls may look for domestic work in more urban places. It appears that the reason for migration amongst the Karamojong has changed since the first wave in 2006 which resulted from instability in the region. It is likely that current out-migration is however still following similar patterns as children and families move to places they have heard about and where they know they will find relatives to take them in. Whilst life on the streets is in many ways very similar for the Karamojong children compared with the rest of the street population, very few Karamojong children are combining their work with attending school. Over one third of Karamojong children on the streets have never been to school.

Recommendations

Policy recommendations

One of the main goals of this study was to provide information to inform policy in Uganda. These recommendations focus on the National Child Policy, which is in a draft format at the time of writing, as well as the Education Act and Child Labour Policy.

Key finding: 15,500 children, aged 7-17 years, living and/or working on the streets across the four study locations: Iganga, Jinja, Kampala and Mbale, who are engaged with the streets in complex and diverse ways and who are all experiencing violations of their rights as laid out in the UN CRC and Uganda Child Act.

Recommendations: The National Child Policy, which is currently in a draft format, is commended in general, but in order to specifically recognise the unique situation of children on the streets, it is recommended that:

- the results of this study are used to target interventions appropriately, given the different numbers of children on the streets in each location;
- early intervention strategies include provision of short-term transitional care for children living on the streets;
- street round-ups are avoided and the detention of children on the streets by the police and in juvenile centres be reviewed in favour of a greater focus on transitional care;
- prevention strategies are encouraged in the locations from where children on the streets are emanating, including the urban areas around the four study locations and the Karamojong region;
- family-child separation is specifically defined to include more than children in care, so that monitoring indicators also track children living on the streets and children living with non-family members; and
- further enumerations to cover the entire country are approved.

Key finding: Children on the streets report that their family's inability to pay for school fees and other scholastic resources is a major push factor for them coming to the streets.

Recommendation: The Uganda Education Act provides for Universal Primary Education and schooling is compulsory up to the age of 12 or 13, however in order to ensure all children, including those on the streets, can and want to attend school there is a need to:

- adequately resource the education sector to deliver against the commitments in the Education Act to enable all children to attend primary school, regardless of their ability to pay for fees and other scholastic resources, including a clear action plan in the National Child Policy; and

- continue to build on efforts to address inequalities in education provision between the north-east and the rest of the country, to ensure that primary schooling is appropriate and accessible for all children, especially those in rural, pastoral communities; and that this is specifically monitored in the National Child Policy.

Key finding: 80% of children living on the streets and 38% of children working on the streets are not attending school. These children are often 4 years behind in their education.

Recommendation: In order to deliver on the goal in the draft National Child Policy to ensure that every child have access to education/educational programmes, irrespective of life circumstances or vulnerability, it is recommended that:

- the government lead an initiative to develop a basic education curriculum which can be used with children who are outside of school, which is suitable for children who have missed several years of education, and which values the skills children have gained when living independently.

Key finding: 15,500 children are exposed to hazardous work on the streets, such as scavenging, carrying loads and selling goods, this is on a daily basis for children living on the streets as well as for 50% of children working on the streets.

Recommendation: There is need for a renewed commitment to end child labour in Uganda, especially if this is to be achieved by the ambitious goal of 2025 as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals. In line with the Child Labour Policy, it is recommended that:

- The elimination of the worst forms of child labour be given greater priority in the new National Child Policy with a commitment to creating a specific action plan;

- Population-level behaviour change efforts around child labour, as planned in the draft National Child Policy, must include raising awareness of the worst forms of child labour, child trafficking, and young people's right to work in conditions are not hazardous or exploitative;

- Greater effort be made to institutionalise child labour and anti-trafficking training amongst law enforcement and local authorities to better equip them to prevent and identify trafficking, to ensure that child victims access appropriate care and protection and to prosecute perpetrators; and

- Monitoring of child labour includes children outside of households.

Practice recommendations

In addition to informing policy it is hoped that the findings of this study can help inform the delivery of services and interventions in Uganda, enabling both governmental and non-governmental practitioners to work together better to appropriately support children on the streets.

Key finding: An estimated 2,600 children, aged 7-17 years, are living on the streets in Kampala, many more than in the other locations. These children live with mainly other children, are further away from their families than children in the other locations and have much weaker ties with their families.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners in Kampala follow a rights-based approach which makes temporary shelters, reintegration programmes and alternative care available to children living on the streets and provides family strengthening support to their families. These services should be guided by a roll out of the National Reintegration SOPs and coordinated by the MGLSD.

Key finding: An estimated 580 children, aged 7-17 years, living on the streets in both Jinja and Mbale, as well as around 100 in Iganga. Over 20% of these children have parents living within the same district with many coming from families in the surrounding districts.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale follow a rights-based approach which makes temporary shelters, reintegration programmes and alternative care available to children living on the streets and provide intensive family strengthening support to their families through community-based social workers based in each district and the surrounding districts.

Key finding: An estimated 11,700 children, aged 7-17 years, are working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja, Kampala and Mbale. In Iganga, Jinja and Mbale 86% of children working on the streets live with family and 50% have parents who live within the respective district. In Kampala 25% of children working on the streets live with family and 20% have parents who live within Kampala.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners target families of children involved in child labour with family strengthening support, including economic strengthening and evidence-based positive parenting education, and older children with basic education, skills and job search training. Available services should be mapped to ensure equitable access and good use of resources.

Key finding: Children reported that they were influenced by peers to turn to the streets and that taxi and lorry drivers were involved in offering them lifts and support as they travel.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners delivering behaviour change programmes should involve children and young people as peer educators, highlighting the dangers of life on the streets. Programmes should also target taxi and lorry drivers to equip them to prevent migration and connect children with early interventions.

Key finding: Children reported differences in the experiences of girls and boys on the streets, with girls feeling more at risk of rape, sexual abuse and poor hygiene and boys reporting higher physical risk and drug abuse. Boys also remain on the streets for longer periods, often into young adulthood.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners ensure that interventions adequately address the sexual, physical and drug abuse girls and boys experience on the streets, especially addressing girls' reproductive and sexual health needs, including psychological counselling and rape response. Older children should be offered tailor-made "catch-up" education, vocational training, apprenticeship opportunities, job search training and entrepreneurship skills training.

Key finding: Karamojong children are the second largest ethnic group on the streets in each location, totaling 3,600 children, aged 7 to 17 years, across all locations. Their street experiences are different to other groups. They have closer family and community ties, there is a higher proportion of girls and less access to education.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners adapt early interventions, reintegration and prevention programmes to meet the specific needs of the Karamojong children on the streets. This will include working with whole families, targeting specific hotspots, and using appropriate language and content for the Karamojong context.

1. Introduction

1.1. Project background

Around the world very few reliable estimates exist of the populations of children living and/or working on the streets. These children are often missed by national censuses or other surveys as they may be absent from households or live in vulnerable and transient households which are not included.[2] Practitioners and policymakers worldwide recognised that interventions aiming to assist children on the streets are more likely to be successful if they are based on reliable evidence. It is important to ensure that "the right services are targeted to the right beneficiaries, that the quality of service provision is monitored and improved and that the impact of the intervention is fully understood."[3] Indeed, the recent General Comment from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called on all states to "develop systematic, rights-respecting, participatory mechanisms to collect data and share disaggregated information about children in street situations."[4]

Several recent studies have adopted a dual system estimate[5] to enumerating children on the street.[6] This is a suitable method for estimating hard-to-reach populations as it does not assume that every individual will be found. Instead two counts are undertaken and the results matched in order to determine the overlap and thus the proportion that were missed. It is then possible to estimate the whole population by taking into account those who were missed. Consortiums of local and international stakeholders have successfully applied the dual system estimate methodology to estimate the population of the children living and working on the streets in Malawi and Cambodia in the last few years.[7] The results of these enumerations have been well received by the government and other stakeholders, and have already informed intervention design of NGOs.[8] Other methods are available to try to overcome the difficulties in enumerating a hard-to-reach group, and many of these have been used with children on the streets, most commonly headcounts[9] and respondent-driven sampling.[10] All methods have some limitations and weaknesses, but it was considered by the research team that a dual system estimate approach is most appropriate for hard-to-reach groups like children on the streets as it compensates for the fact that not all children will be found, unlike a traditional headcount. In addition, it is critical for any method to make use of local knowledge of where children congregate and to work with experienced outreach workers who know how to build rapport with children on the streets in order to gain their confidence in the enumeration exercise.[11] It should also be noted that any enumeration is only ever a static snapshot of a very fluid situation and should be followed-up with repeat studies.

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[2] R Carr-Hill, 'Missing Millions and Measuring Development Progress', World Development, vol 46, 2013, 30-44.

[3] D Whitford & J Wakia, Enumerating street children, Retrak, 2014, p2.

[4] UN CRC, Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, 21 June 2017.

[5] This report uses the term dual system estimate in preference to capture/recapture which is also a common term for this methodology. It is felt by the authors that when this methodology, which began in wildlife studies, is used with human subjects the connotations of "capturing" people is inappropriate and does not accurately describe how the methodology is implemented.

[6] For example: Retrak, Making the invisible visible: an enumeration of children on the streets in Malawi, Retrak, 2015; National Institute of Statistics et al, Estimation of Homeless Children Across Seven Cities in Cambodia, 2016.

[7] Retrak, Making the invisible visible.

[8] For example: Chisomo Children's Club in Malawi used the results of the enumeration exercise to target prevention strategies in locations from which many children come onto the streets of Lilongwe and Blantyre.

[9] For example: C Ford, National Headcount of Street Children in Sierra Leone, Street Child of Sierra Leone, 2012; R Bhaskaran & B Mehta, Surviving the Streets: A census of street children in Delhi, Institute for Human Development and Save the Children, 2011.

[10] For example: A Hatløy & A Huser, Identification of street children: characteristics of street children in Bamako and Accra, Fafo report 474, 2005.

[11] Further information on this methodology is available in Whitford & Wakia, Enumerating street children.

In Uganda, a group of local stakeholders working with children on the streets, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development(MGLSD) and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), were interested in undertaking an enumeration of the street population in Iganga, Jinja, Kampala and Mbale (see locations in Figure 1). These locations were chosen because it was thought that children move through Mbale, Iganga and Jinja in the east of Uganda towards the capital Kampala where there is a visibly large population of children on the streets. The towns of Iganga, Jinja and Mbale are the administrative headquarters for the surrounding districts, but are still quite small with each municipality home to 30,000 to 90,000 people. The surrounding districts are largely rural with a mainly agricultural economy. Mbale is the largest of the three towns and is a hub in the eastern region, close to the border with Kenya. Jinja is a popular tourist destination as it sits on Lake Victoria at the source of the River Nile. The capital of Kampala by contrast is a bustling city, home to 1.5 million people. It is the political and economic centre of Uganda, and although it is also the centre of the Buganda Kingdom the city is now home to people from all over the country.

The street population in Kampala is often cited as being 10,000 children, although there is no traceable basis for this estimate (see section 1.2 for further details). Although it is known that many children move to the streets from the north and east, often passing through Mbale, Iganga and Jinja, there are no available estimates of the street population for these three locations. Therefore, the goal of this study is to generate estimates for all 4 locations on this route.

Figure 1: South-eastern Uganda, showing Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale
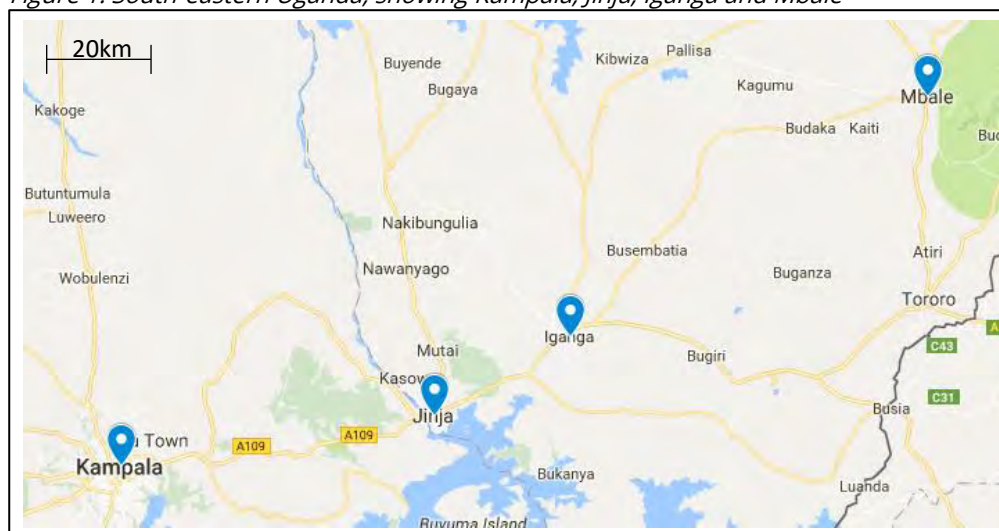
1.2. Literature review summary

As part of this study a review of recent literature concerning children on the streets in Uganda was undertaken in order to gain an understanding of what definitions and estimates of children on the streets already exist, and what is already understood in terms of the demographics of children on the streets such as their age, gender, ethnicity, education and origin. The goal was to inform the methodology of the enumeration study and accompanying qualitative study. The literature found through online searches and snowballing was mainly qualitative studies, produced by NGOs, and looking at the experiences of children on the streets in Uganda, often focused on violence and abuse. Several studies focused specifically on the children from the north-eastern Karamoja region. A summary of the results is presented here. It should be noted that since the literature is mainly generated by NGOs most of the studies have not undergone any formal or peer review process and are intended to inform the provision of services to children or provide an advocacy platform. Whilst the findings do have much in common with the wider body of research on children on the streets in Africa and internationally, there does appear

to be much still to learn from this wider body of literature.[12] In addition, the recent UN CRC General Comment on children in street situations highlights the need to use a child rights approach which respects each child as a rights holder and to include them in decisions which may impact her/his life.[13] Much of the literature reviewed reflects a more welfare approach where children are seen as victims in need of rescue without proper consideration of their views.

1.1.1. Estimates, demographics and methods

The review revealed that there is a lack of reliable estimates on the numbers of children on the streets in Uganda. A figure of 10,000 children is cited in a number of studies[14], however the actual study that produced this figure could not be traced. For example, a 2015 study by ANPCANN[15] mentions the 10,000 number and references a Human Rights Watch (HRW)[16] study. In this study by HRW, the 10,000 figure is in reference to a 2013 survey by ANPCANN, however the actual survey is not in the reference section, instead there are links to two newspaper articles. It is unclear why ANPCANN in 2015 does not reference its own earlier survey. Attempts to locate this earlier 2013 survey have not been successful. None of the studies reviewed provided a clear, operational definition of which children were included. Mostly the term 'children working and living on the streets' is used often interchangeably with other terms, such as 'full-time street children'. Each study made a different decision on who to include and it is therefore difficult to compare findings or build on past work.

Most of the studies reviewed used qualitative methodologies. Whilst these are valuable in providing in-depth insights into the nature of children's experiences they are not able to provide reliable demographic information on children on the streets. Convenience or purposive sampling means results cannot be generalised to all children on the streets. An enumeration to estimate the population of children on the streets would provide a reliable breakdown of demographics of these.

The literature highlights that the Karamojong are a significant group contributing to the number of children on the streets in Uganda. [17] The Karamojong are people from Karamoja, a sub-region located in north-eastern Uganda. The Karamojong are often seen on the streets in family groups, having migrated due to violence, hunger, an inability for children to attend school and to fulfil their labour obligations. They are often discriminated against due to their background and cultural practices which may be seen as "barbaric" or "vicious".[18] It was estimated that there were 1,600 children on the streets in Kampala from Karamoja in 2006 (see section 4.1.5 for this study's estimate).[19] One study suggests that, due to a strict division of labour in the traditional Karamojong livelihood system, girls are more likely to possess skills sought after by potential employers in urban areas and so are more likely to end up on the streets[20].

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[12] A good overview of the wider research on children on the streets is provided in: S Thomas de Benítez, State of the World's Street Children: Research, Consortium for Street Children, 2011.

[13] UN CRC, Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 21.

[14] EJ Walakira et al, 'No place is safe: violence against and among children and youth in street situations in Uganda', Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies, vol 9, no 4, 2014, pp 332-340; Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and UNICEF, Situation Analysis of Child Poverty and Deprivation in Uganda, MGLSD, 2014; Human Rights Watch (HRW), "Where Do You Want Us to Go?" Abuses against Street Children in Uganda, HRW, 2014; ANPPCAN-Uganda, Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong Children and Families' Street Migration in Uganda, ANPPCAN, 2015

[15] ANPPCAN-Uganda, Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong

[16] HRW, "Where Do You Want Us to Go?"

[17] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Child Migration from Karamoja, IOM, 2014; JW Gackle, G Lolem & MP Kabanda, Karamojong Street Children and Adults in Kampala, Uganda: A Situational Analysis Investigating the Root Causes, Issues Faced, and Current Responses, Oasis International, 2005.

[18] Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), Rapid Situation Assessment Report on Children Living and Working on the Streets of Kampala with a Special Focus on Karamojong Children, ASB, 2007; SD Russell, MP Kabanda, A Bett, Uganda's Response to Street Children: Investigating the Validity and Impact of the Kamparingisa National Rehabilitation Centre (KNRC) in Working with Street Children in Uganda, Oasis International and The Table, 2006.

[19] ASB, Rapid Situation Assessment Report.

[20] ASB.

1.1.2. Contributing factors

The literature largely agrees that poverty, family breakdown and violence are the leading causes of children moving to the streets in Uganda.[21] Household poverty is highlighted by much of the literature as being the leading push factor which is seen as the underlining and crosscutting issue. Children express how their family's poverty means they lack food, cannot afford to go to school and do not have adequate clothing.[22] More systemic poverty in their communities means that children feel they do not have good opportunities at home and so decide to leave for places they feel offer them a better chance in life.[23] The literature also highlighted family instability, due to death of parents, the breakdown of traditional support structures of extended families, and growing single-parent households also lead to children feeling unwanted and pushed out.[24] These fragile family situations are also seen to lead to mistreatment and violence against children, forcing them to look for safety outside of their family's care.[25] It seems that there is a lack of analysis in the literature of structural factors, as highlighted in the UN CRC General Comment, including inequality due to economic status, race and gender, that lead to the exclusion of children.[26]

In addition, most of the studies have majored on child migration and there is limited information how children are accompanied by adults on the streets, especially amongst the Karamojong.[27] It is unclear what role adults play in children's migration to the streets. Similarly, whilst peer influence is mentioned in a few studies[28] there is not much detail on how this actually functions.

1.1.3. Experiences on the streets

From the literature reviewed there is a reasonable understanding of children's experiences on the streets.[29] The children in the studies reviewed reported engaging in at least one type of economic activity, including begging, working as domestic help, porters and prostitution, often with very little money to show for their work.[30] While carrying out these activities, they may use drugs and alcohol, which make them more prone to violent behaviour.[31] The challenges identified in the studies include physical and sexual violence, which expose them to the risk of STIs including HIV/AIDS. There is also a risk of being detained at the Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre, a juvenile justice institution.[32]

It is clear that most of the studies only focused on the negative experiences of children on the streets, perpetuating the view of them as victims in need of rescue, rather than as social actors in their own right. In wider research there has been a lot of momentum behind the idea of "street connections" and the importance of children's friendships and opportunities on the streets, which often lead them to return

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[21] ANPPCAN-Uganda, Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong; T Haliu, J Tusingwire, J Wakia & P Zacharias, Retrak research summary: The situation of street girls in Kampala and Addis Ababa, Retrak, 2012; L Young, 'Journeys to the street: the complex migration geographies of Ugandan street children', Geoforum, vol 35, 2004, pp 471-488; African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Violence against Children Living and/or Working in the Streets in Uganda, ACPF, 2012.

[22] ANPPCAN-Uganda, Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong; T Haliu et al, Retrak research summary.

[23] ANPPCAN-Uganda; Young, 'Journeys to the street'.

[24] ANPPCAN-Uganda; Young; ACPF, Violence against Children.

[25] Young; ACPF; Street Children NGOS Network (SCNN), Appraisal of the Magnitude of Street Children in Uganda, SCCN, 2008.

[26] UN CRC, Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 21.

[27] K Czuba, The Causes and Mechanisms of Karimojong Child Migration, IOM, 2012; K Czuba, Reintegration and Resettlement Experiences of Former Karimojong Child Migrants, IOM, 2012.

[28] Young, 'Journeys to the street'; ACPF, Violence against Children.

[29] ANPPCAN-Uganda, Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong; ACPF, Violence against Children; M Swahn, M Haberlen & J Palmier, 'Alcohol and drug use and other high-risk behaviours among youth in the slums of Kampala, Uganda: Perceptions and contexts obtained through focus groups', International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research, vol 3, no 4, 2014, pp 289-305.

[30] HRW, "Where Do You Want Us to Go?"

[31] Swahn et al, 'Alcohol and drug use'; ACPF, Violence against Children; ANPPCAN-Uganda Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong; Russell et al, Uganda's Response to Street Children.

[32] ANPPCAN-Uganda, Annual Situation Analysis on Karamojong; Russell et al, Uganda's Response to Street Children.

to the streets over time.[33] It is important to consider what children gain on the streets and the friendships, skills and resilience they build, as well as the violence and discrimination they experience.[34]

1.3. Expert input

As part of the scoping for this project the views of the government and other experts working with children in Uganda was sought. The research team received input from experts at the MGLSD, UBOS, Makerere University and NGOs (African Hearts, AMARI, AVSI, ChildFund, CRO, Dwelling Places, Retrak Uganda and Save the Children). The aim of engaging these experts was to understand how children on the streets are defined and understood in Uganda, where children are most likely to be found on the streets in each town and what information and insights would be useful to inform local policy and practice.

Most of the stakeholders revealed agreement on the age of a child, under the age of 18 years, in line with the national definition of a child and a broad definition of children on the streets, highlighting three groups of children often talked about in Uganda:

- Unaccompanied children living on the streets on their own: children who have been pushed or have run away from their families and who live alone on streets;

- Unaccompanied children working on the streets: children who spend most of their time on the streets, earning a living on the streets and fending for themselves most of the day, but returning home on a regular basis or living in rented rooms in groups;

- Accompanied children living or working on the streets with their families: children who live or work daily with their family on the streets, this is expected to include many of the Karamojong children.

Various experts highlighted the reasons they understand children to be on the streets to include: push factors linked to the child's situation at home, such as poverty, lack of food, inability to attend school, violence, abuse, drug abuse, poor parenting, death of a parent or parents' separation and remarriage; as well as pull factors such as children looking for work, curiosity, idleness at home, seeking adventure and peer pressure. It was also noted that some children are brought to the streets by someone, including their parents, relatives or a trafficker and that some children are born on streets.

Those interviewed expressed that the findings of the enumeration should be useful to inform relevant policy, especially the draft National Child Policy, and to improve implementation of programmes to benefit children on the streets. The key questions they wanted answered mainly related to the effectiveness of interventions given that there appear to have been a large number of children on the streets in Uganda for many years. They were especially eager to understand how families can be empowered to overcome push factors to prevent children turning to the streets and to improve reintegration assistance and keep children from returning to the streets.

As with the literature review, the view of policy makers and practitioners in Uganda is largely focused on assisting children off the streets and back to family care and enabling families to mitigate push factors. This perhaps overlooks the need to consider structural causes which lead a child to actively seek better opportunities away from home and which cannot be addressed purely through family-level interventions, both those focused on prevention and reintegration.

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[33] Thomas de Benítez, State of the World's Street Children.
[34] Young, 'Journeys to the street'; K McAlpine et al, 'A Survey of Street Children in Northern Tanzania: How Abuse or Support Factors May Influence Migration to the Street', Community Mental Health Journal, vol 46, no1, 2010, pp 26-32.

1.4. Goal and key questions

The goal of this research project is to inform policy and practice in Uganda by providing an:

- Estimate of the number of children on the streets in Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale;
- Insight into the characteristics of these children; and
- Exploration of children's perspectives of their engagement on the streets.

This is achieved through combining both quantitative and qualitative research approaches with children on the streets in the four towns.

The focus of this project, as explained below, has been informed by the literature review and consultation with the Ugandan government and local stakeholders who are currently working with children, as well as through engagement with children themselves who are involved in Retrak's programmes in Kampala.

1.1.1. Quantitative estimate and breakdown

The quantitative element will employ a dual system estimation methodology to estimate the population of children on the streets in each town. Since it is known that how children engage with the streets and their reasons for being there are varied and often unique, it is important that this study analyses the make-up and varied experiences of these children, if it is to adequately inform policy and practice responses. Therefore, in addition to overall estimates, this project will look for patterns within and between different groups of children. Policy makers and practitioners were particularly interested to understand how many children fall into the following three groups of children:

- Unaccompanied children living on the streets,
- Unaccompanied children working on the streets, and
- Accompanied children living and/or working on the streets

The study will give estimates for size of populations of children who are living on the streets and those who are working on the streets, as well as indicating what proportions are accompanied and unaccompanied (see section 4.1 for results and precise definitions). However, it is always important to keep in mind that such definitions create artificial distinctions between groups of children, and while it is necessary to have a precise definition in order to undertake an enumeration, the realities of children's lives, their identities and relationships, do not fit neatly into such boxes. In addition, the estimates can only hold true for the time of the enumeration, it is a snapshot in time, and the situation on the streets and for each child will change over time. This includes changes in their engagement on the streets which may put them in a different category in the future, or to not meet the classification as child on the streets at all.

In addition to the estimates, the study will provide a breakdown, in percentages, for the following criteria:

- Age
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Home location
- Disability

Further analysis will be done to explore patterns in the following areas:

- Length and frequency of engagment on the streets
- Types of income generating activities on the streets
- Location, make-up and frequency of visits to parental home
- Home location prior to engagement on the streets

- Education background and current engagement
- Interaction with juvenile institutions (remand homes and rehabilitation centre)

1.1.2. Qualitative research questions

The purpose of the qualitative element of this study is to explore children's perspectives on the factors that brought them onto the streets in Kampala, Mbale, Jinja and Iganga. The goal will be to understand the engagement and movement of children on the streets, their involvement with services and institutions (both governmental and non-governmental), and what and who motivates decisions to spend time on the streets. It is recognised that this is often not a one-direction journey, for some it is daily or seasonal, for others it has happened at multiple points over a number of years. This journey for many will have included interactions with drop-in and transition centres, reintegration programmes and detention centres.

It is hoped that increased understanding of how and why children engage with the streets will assist the government and other organisations working with children on the streets to develop appropriate interventions that can meet children's and families' immediate needs as well as addressing the deeper structural causes of engagement on the streets.

The qualitative study will seek to complement the estimation of street populations, by answering the following question:

- What do the migration journeys of children on the streets look like in Uganda?

We are interested to hear from children how they would describe their journey to the streets and what places and people it has included. This is likely to be unique for each child, but will hopefully flag some common areas which will be of use to stakeholders in Uganda.

Under this broad question, the study seeks to understand:

- What influences children to migrate to the streets?
- Who is involved in influencing children and in what ways?
- What are the routes that children take from home to the streets, and does this include repeat journeys and locations?
- When children have interacted with centres and services what influences a return to the streets?
- How do children see their future choices?

2. Quantitative Methodology

The quantitative methodology builds on recent experiences of using the count/recount methodology to estimate populations of children living and working on the streets.[35] This methodology is appropriate for hard-to-reach groups[36] as it assumes that a complete census is not possible and instead combines an initial population count, with a second re-enumeration for comparison purposes. By matching the records in the first count with the re-enumeration it is possible to establish the overlap and make an estimate that takes into account those within the population who were not included (see Figure 2).[37] This is thus a more statistically accurate estimate than simply undertaking a straight head count.

Children on the streets can be considered a hard-to-reach group due to their mobile and fluid lifestyle. Children engage with the streets in a variety of ways depending on their choices, needs and circumstances. Some children may only be on the streets for a few hours of work close to home once or twice a week after school. Other children are living on the streets, sleeping in shop doorways with their peers, scavenging for food and constantly moving around avoiding the police. Children's connection to the streets will also change over time, sometimes they may be on the streets for only a few hours a week, sometimes they may be more full-time on the streets. Children on the streets are often difficult to locate as they may live and work in areas which can be difficult to access and they may avoid contact with government agencies and NGOs.[38]

In order for the dual systems estimate methodology to work well it is important for the population to be closed, for there to be good coverage of the target population, for the two counts to be independent, and for there to be clear definitions as to who will be included and excluded.[39] These important conditions were met in the following ways for this study:

- Closed population: in order to have limited movement of the population outside of the area during the enumeration exercise the second count was undertaken directly after the first count.

- Good coverage: the area to be covered in each town was mapped out by stakeholders who are working with children on the streets ahead of the enumeration exercise. These were reviewed by the enumerators with experience of working on the streets during the training and final preparations. In addition, enumerators were experienced in working with children and underwent training on respecting children and good practice in engaging children on the streets. Less experienced workers were teamed up with more experienced workers. This is important to ensure that children on the streets, who are often suspicious of adults, felt as comfortable as possible to talk to the enumerators and answer questions honestly.

- Independence between counts: the mapped areas in each town were allocated to different groups of enumerators in each count and enumerators were trained to not discuss their

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[35] Retrak, Making the invisible visible; National Institute of Statistics et al, Estimation of Homeless Children.

[36] L Guarcello & N Koseleci, A profile of Cairo Street Children, Understanding Children's Work (UCW) Programme Working Paper Series November 2009, UCW, 2009; A Hatløy et al, Identification of street children; LG Johnston et al, 'Respondent-driven sampling: a new method for studying street children with findings from Albania', Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies, vol 5, no 1, 2010, pp 1-11.

[37] The duplicate records of children who were counted twice are not included in the calculation of the final estimate nor in further analysis. In addition the records were checked for duplicate entries within a count as some children were interviewed more than once during each count. These records were removed before the matching process began.

[38] T Pullum et al, 'Systems and strategies for identifying and enumerating children outside of family care', Child Abuse & Neglect, 36, 2012, pp701-710; Thomas de Benítez, State of the World's Street Children.

[39]Whitford & Wakia, Enumerating street children.

experiences in count 1 with other groups in order to prevent bias in their approach to finding children.

- Clear definitions: the decision on a definition of which children should be included and excluded began with discussions with stakeholders on local understanding and usability. These views were fed into the design of the interview tool which was pre-tested with children in Kampala to ensure that questions could be understood well and answered consistently.

Figure 2: The dual system estimate method

A dual system estimate requires two counts from which the two sets of respondents are then compared or matched to establish the overlap. This comparison allows an estimate of the total population by establishing the number of people who were missed in the first count and adding in this undercount.

The estimate is made by taking the ratio of the matched (M) plus non-matched (NM) respondents divided by the number of matched respondents (M) and multiplying by the net number of respondents in the initial count (N).

This dual system estimate of the population can be expressed as N*(M + NM)/M.

Source: Whitford & Wakia (2014)

Count 1 = 5000

Count 2 = 4000

Of which non-matched = 364

Matched = 3636

Initial count*(Matched+Non-matched)/Matched

N*(M + NM)/M

5000*(3636+364)/3636 = 5500

2.1   Preparation

2.1.1   Stakeholder Meetings

Prior to the commencement of the study, stakeholder meetings were held to garner support for and understand the Ugandan context. The meetings involved members of local government agencies and NGOs. Representatives from MGLSD and UBOS were also an integral part of the meetings. The sessions sought to agree on the methodology, discuss expectations and the format of results, define the inclusion criteria, geographic areas and disaggregation characteristics that were included in the interview forms. These were attributes such as age, education, work on the streets and duration on the streets.

Further meetings were held with stakeholders from each of the four towns – Kampala, Mbale, Jinja and Iganga – to acquire information on the locations within these towns where the children were likely to be found. The feedback from the meetings determined the areas mapped out for further input from the enumerators during the training workshop. Areas such as markets, along main roads and junctions, bus parks, slums, certain cinemas and restaurants were identified as possible locations within the towns where children are likely to congregate.

The stakeholder meetings also functioned as a base for the recruitment of the enumerators. The representatives from the various groups present – NGOs, district officials and the police – recommended individuals from their respective organisations to function as enumerators for the study.

2.1.2   Design and piloting of definition and survey interview tool

Based on the literature review and consultation with stakeholders in Uganda, the definition of children on the streets for the enumeration exercise was identified as any child between the ages of 7-17 years

who self-identified as sleeping and/or working on the streets.[40] This was based on children's responses to questions 21 and 25 of the interview tools:

- What kind of place do you sleep most of the time? – explained to be the one place they slept most nights in the past week, responses were categorised as either streets/public space or a house/home. Any child reporting that they slept most of the time on the streets or in a public space was defined as a child living on the streets.

- What is your major activity on the streets? – explained to be the one activity they engage in most often, any responses indicating activity out of doors that earns an income were included as working on the streets, such as selling goods in the market, carrying loads, scavenging (playing or doing nothing were not included as street work). Any child reporting that they slept in a house but worked on the streets was defined as a child living on the streets.

A definition of accompanied and unaccompanied was also devised based on who children reported living or working with (questions 22 and 26). Any child defined as living on the streets (because they reported sleeping on the streets or in a public place) and who reported sleeping in that place with their parents, other family members or other adults were defined as accompanied. Any children defined as working on the streets (because they reported sleeping in a home but working on the streets) and who reported working on the streets along with parents, other family members or other adults was defined as accompanied.

During the training, the enumerators were advised to approach children seen to be working, preparing to sleep or hanging out on the streets.

The interview form comprised five main sections: demographics (used for matching and analysis), life on the streets, relationship with family, education, and remand/rehabilitation centre experience (see Annex 2).

Piloting of the interview tool was carried in advance with a small number of children recently arrived at one of Retrak's transition centres. The results confirmed the time needed to complete each interview form. The piloting also indicated that a few children understood the government rehabilitation centre or remand home to mean police contact (question37). Therefore, during the training workshop for the enumerators they were advised to take note when asking that question.

Since children under 7 years on the streets were not included in the interviews, but still of interest, a separate tally was kept of children below 7 years who were observed to be working, hanging out or sleeping on the streets. Since these younger children were counted but were not interviewed, consent was not required.

2.1.3   Training

Enumerators attended a two-day training workshop prior to the enumeration exercise. Two workshops were held, one in Kampala for the enumerators covering Kampala and Jinja, and one in Mbale for those covering Mbale and Iganga. The training focused on the purpose and methodology of the survey, principles of outreach work, risk awareness and mitigation, child protection and ethics, understanding the interview tool and knowledge of the interview locations. The workshop evaluation feedback revealed that 90% of participants felt well equipped to carry out the survey.

Supervisors were selected during the workshops due to their broad experience with children on the streets. Informal assessments of the enumerators during the workshops also guided the formation of

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[40] It was noted that the application of the definition would be based on the child's answers to questions which would not be verified, including age which can often be inaccurate. It was not possible to verify the children's answers with any documentation given the type of exercise being undertaken.

the enumeration teams in each location. Teams of five (one supervisor and two pairs of enumerators) were formed to ensure a combination of experiences levels, gender and language skills.

Prior to data entry, the data entrants also had a training session to ensure familiarity with the survey, the content of the interview form and how to check the interview forms to enter data appropriately and accurately.

2.1.4   Mapping

Stakeholder consultations provided information to aid initial mapping of locations to be covered by the enumeration in each town, including guidance on which groups of children could be found in each location. These areas were then reviewed during the training and finalised with participants who had good knowledge of where children congregate and work. Every effort was made to ensure that all known areas were covered by the enumeration teams. Each area was clearly delineated on a map and teams were requested to cover the whole of each area.

2.1.5   Risk assessment

During the training workshop, participants identified potential risks to the enumerators and the children that would be a part of the study. These were discussed at length in one of the training sessions with participants suggesting strategies to mitigate the risks. With additional input from the research team, these were compiled and distributed to the supervisors of each enumeration team (see annex 1).

2.2   Data collection

The enumeration exercise in Kampala and Jinja took place between 1st and 4th March 2017 and between 11th to 15th March 2017 in Mbale and Iganga. As Kampala was the largest area in the study, 40 enumerators were required for comprehensive coverage. Mbale and Iganga had 20 enumerators each while Iganga being the smallest in size had 10 enumerators. The participants in each town were representatives from local government agencies and NGOs. Interviews in each area were carried out twice by two separate teams to allow for a reliable estimate (see methodology conditions on p21).

Supervisors were provided with a checklist that enabled them to confirm each member of the team had the necessary items required for the enumeration exercises before heading out into the field. These included questionnaires, the under 7s tally sheet, letter of authorisation from MGLSD, proper identification, emergency contact information and a pen. Supervisors also undertook some re-interviews on the first day of the counts to ensure consistency of responses, and they were responsible for checking interview forms had been correctly filled each day. Representatives from UBOS and MGLSD also undertook spot checks in each town and provided feedback to the research team.

A debrief session was carried out for each team at the end of each day. This allowed them to reflect on their day and gave the research team an opportunity to understand how the fieldwork was progressing and could address any data collection or child protection issues as they arose.

After each debrief, the questionnaires were checked by the supervisors with the research team confirming the number, sealing and labelling the questionnaires which were to be transported to the Retrak offices in Kampala for data entry.

2.3   Data processing

Data entry was carried out in a central location, at the Retrak offices in Kampala. After data entry was complete, all the records were combined into one file and each record assigned a unique record number. A total of 7,152 interview records were recorded. The data was then cleaned and a document created highlighting the criteria used to clean each variable to ensure consistency (see Annex 4), resulting in the inclusion of 4,413 records. After completion of the cleaning, quality checks were carried out by other members of the team.

The next step was to remove records where children did not consent, where they reported their age to be out-of-scope (younger than 7 or older than 17 years) or where they did not self-identify as either working and/or sleeping on the streets (questions 21 and 25)[41]. This fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the definition. The final step was the un-duplication of records within each count for each town, so as to have only one record per child for each count. This was done using a package in the R programming language, called Record Linkage.[42]

For quality control, a log of files was maintained detailing any change made to any of the files, with the date, person who made the change and the reason for the modification or creation of a new file.

2.4   Estimation & analysis

The dual system estimate methodology involves the matching of the two counts from each location to determine how many children were counted in both counts. This was done using the same Record Linkage package. The programme considers each child's demographic data (name, age, sex, parent's names, name of home village) and compares it with every child's data in that location's enumeration. Then it computes a measure of how well the data match for each pair of children. Data from pairs of children with the highest matching measures (above 0.7 match), arranged in decreasing order, were reviewed by the research team from which those that actually match were determined. Some matches above 0.7 were excluded manually if the research team considered the pair not to be a match, perhaps because they appeared to be siblings or simply shared a common name. It was not possible to do any follow-up to determine final matches as it would have been too complicated to trace individual children due to their movement on the streets. Once the total matches and non-matches were established it was then possible to apply the estimation formula to each location's enumeration data in order to estimate the population size.

The purpose of this estimation is to accommodate a correction for the degree to which the counts missed eligible children. The degree of undercounting in this study reflects the fact that enumerators only visited an area for long enough to interview those children present during that short period of time. As highlighted in the introduction and shown in the findings of this report there is a great degree of individuality and fluidity in children's engagement with the streets, with much time also spent at school and home. The dual system estimate methodology is applicable and widely used in these situations,[43] as well as in situations in which a greater proportion of subject respondents were interviewed.[44]

The analysis in this study consists of the frequency distributions of all responses to questions of interest and cross-tabulations of all responses to two or more questions. An example of a cross-tabulation is a breakdown by responses to the school attendance question by responses to the age question. These are presented in the quantitative findings section (section 4).

2.5   Ethics and child protection

The research team formulated an ethical strategy based on a similar study by Retrak carried out in Malawi. The strategy outlined key ethical issues with suggested preparation and responses. The strategy was based on three principles of research ethics as outlined by FHI 360.[45] These principles are:
   • Respect for persons – recognizing the right and capacity of all individuals to make their own choices and decisions;

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[41] A non-response rate was not explicitly calculated; however, through the process of determining inclusion of responses, a proxy value for non-response can be calculated using the number of responses that were included in the study (4,413 out of 7,152, for a total inclusion rate of 62% and thus an exclusion/"non-response" rate of 38%).
[42] R is a widely used, open source software, freely available to download.
[43] For example: National Institute of Statistics et al, Estimation of Homeless Children.
[44] For example the recent use of dual system estimate method to estimate deaths in the Syrian conflict: M Price, A Gohdes & P Ball, 'Documents of war: Understanding the Syrian conflict', Significance, 12, 2015, pp1-19.
[45] R Rivera & D Borasky, Research Ethics Training Curriculum, 2nd Ed, FHI 360, 2009.

- Beneficence – the researcher is responsible for the participant's physical, mental and social well-being; and
- Justice – forbids placing one group of people at risk solely for the benefit of another, there is an obligation to distribute risk and benefit in an equitable manner.

In keeping with these principles, the enumerators obtained informed consent from the children verbally after explaining the purpose of the study and the time needed to go through the interview form. The children were also informed that they were free to stop the interview at any time without repercussions.

The enumerators, who were experienced children's workers recommended by NGOs, district officials or the police, were taken through the child protection procedures during the training workshop. This included ensuring that each participant understood the safety and referral procedures and signed the child protection code of conduct. Participants were also provided with the contacts of the designated child protection officer in their respective enumeration locations. As the enumerators selected for the study were those with experience working with children they had experience using appropriate communication skills required to engage with the children. However, these skills were emphasised during the training and time was given to role play engaging with children and to receive feedback.

2.6　Limitations

As with any study, the research team encountered a few challenges with the quantitative part of this study. Although the need for enumerators who could speak Karamojong was noted in the planning stages, it was not possible to find sufficient enumerators with appropriate language skills so that every enumeration team could have a Karamojong speaker. Teams who did have a competent Karamojong speaker were deployed to areas where it was known they would encounter many Karamojong children. However, some Karamojong children were also encountered in other areas and these children had to be interviewed in another local language that they could manage, which may have impacted their understanding or expression.

In addition, heavy rainfall on one of the afternoons during the second count of the Iganga enumeration hindered the exercise for a few hours. Unfortunately, limited resources did not permit extending the duration of the study to compensate for the hours lost.

3. Qualitative Methodology

The qualitative study was carried out as an add-on to the main enumeration exercise. The purpose of the qualitative element was to provide more depth and insights into the factors contributing to the presence of children on the streets and to their experiences on the streets in the four study locations. Whereas the enumeration provided the estimation of number of children on the streets, the qualitative interviews helped to understand and explain the movement of children from home to the streets, their involvement with services and institutions (both governmental and non-governmental), and what and who motivated their decisions to spend time on the streets.

The main focus of the qualitative study was provided by local stakeholders through a meeting that included organisations working with children on the streets in the four locations, along with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

3.1 Interview tool

Qualitative data was collected with children on the streets who had participated in the enumeration exercise, through in-depth interviews following an open-ended interview guide. The guide ensured a systematic approach to each interview, which was important as there was a team of people involved with the interviewing. The open-ended nature of the questions allowed flexibility for the interviewers to probe for rich descriptions of children's experiences.

The interview guide was subdivided into four sections. The first section was about the background of the child. The second section contained a request for children to draw pictures about their movements to the streets including, places passed through and people who influenced their decisions to move to the streets as well as some of factors influencing them to move to the streets. The drawing exercise aimed to help children think about and describe their experiences in a creative manner. This method was found to be appropriate as it helped the children to open up their minds and recall the past. They were able to explain and give more information through the drawings. The third section of the interview guide contained questions on children's interaction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with children and juvenile institutions, such as remand homes and the national rehabilitation centre. Finally, the last section of the guide aimed to find out if the children were in touch with their parents or relatives and what were their future aspirations and choices.

Each interview was designed to take less than one and a half hours, which was thought to be in line with the concentration of the children and would not be too much inconvenience to the children who were working during the day.

3.2 Pre-test

Before the study was done a pre-test of the interview format was completed with children already engaged with the Retrak transition centre in Kampala. The pre-test created an opportunity for children to propose new areas of interest that might be included in the study, as well as ensure that the questions could be understood well and to give an insight into children's ease in responding to the interview questions. In general, the children felt at ease in responding to the questions and only made a few suggestions on additional questions and rephrasing. However, it was found that children under 10 years could not fully answer all the questions and found it difficult to use the drawing exercise to talk about their involvement on the streets, therefore only children 10 years and over were included in the qualitative study.

3.3   Interviewers

Interviewers were drawn from organisations working with children on the streets that were participating in the main enumeration exercise, with particular emphasis on trained social workers who had experience of research interviews. The interviewers participated in a training exercise to ensure they understood the purpose and method of the study and had a chance to practice the interview questions and structure.

3.4   Data collection

The data collection exercise in Kampala and Jinja took place on 2nd and 3rd March 2017 and on 12th and 13th March 2017 in Mbale and Iganga.

Purposive sampling was used to select the respondents from those interviewed as part of the enumeration. Only children who met the criteria for being children on the streets in the enumeration's definition were included. It was anticipated that the enumeration would find more boys on the streets than girls. Since the study was interested to learn about any gender dynamics that impact street engagement, girls were over-sampled into the qualitative study to ensure that their experiences were heard and understood adequately.

The children who met the criteria as children on the streets during the re-count of the enumeration, and were aged between 10 to 17 years, were invited to come the following day to a child-friendly centre to be interviewed. Children who met the enumeration criteria but were less than 10 years were excluded from the study based on feedback from the pre-test (see section 3.2). The children who met the criteria and were willing to participate in the in-depth interviews were supposed to be collected from the streets the following morning by social workers and brought to the NGO centres for the interviews. However, this did not happen as the children were sceptical about being collected by strangers. Therefore, children who had been trained as peer educators as part of an NGOs' programmes, and who therefore had a close interaction with the children, were requested to collect them and bring them to the centres.

A total of 50 children were interviewed from the four study locations (see table X). To ensure gender inclusivity, at least 50% of respondents of each gender were selected. However, in Jinja many of the girls spoken to could not find time for the interview because they were employed and missing a day at their work place could cost them their employment.

Table 1: Number of children participating in in-depth interviews

Location	Total children interviewed	Girls Interviewed	Boys interviewed
Kampala	20	10	10
Mbale	10	5	5
Jinja	10	3	7
Iganga	10	5	5
Total	50	23	27

Children received a small gift of a t-shirt at the end of the interview process to thank them for their time. They were also given lunch at the location of the interview and their bus fare.

The interviews were conducted in the local language that the child was comfortable with. The interview sessions were audio taped, with the child's permission, using digital voice recorders. After the interview sessions the interviewer together with a member of the research team discussed and made notes on the major themes that had emerged from that particular interview and wrote down debrief notes for each

interview. The debrief session was intended to capture relevant information which may not be evident by reading a transcript and also to identify the common themes.

3.5   Data analysis

Recorded interviews were transcribed by three trained transcribers who were conversant with the local languages (such as Luganda or Lugisu) that had been used during the interviews. Transcription was done in the local language and later translated into English so as to retain the original meaning. The whole text was read in an attempt to grasp its meaning, known as naïve reading.

NVivo, a computer assisted qualitative analysis software package, was used to code the transcripts. A deductive approach to analysis was used to develop major themes and subthemes from the research questions. The themes and subthemes were shared between the two main coders. Any other theme that emerged in the coding process was also included among the pre-determined themes. To check for bias or omission of key results, a team of three additional researchers (drawn from Retrak's M&E teams) went through a sample of transcribed data and identified themes related to the research questions. These were crosschecked against the main coding and then combined for the subsequent analysis. In addition, field debrief notes and researchers' field journals were thoroughly reviewed, typed and coded into the relevant themes and included into the analysis. Classification of responses into meaningful categories helped to bring out their essential pattern which closely followed the main themes of this investigation.

3.6   Ethics and child protection

The study team addressed ethical considerations during the planning and execution of the study as well as adhering to Retrak's child protection policy. The interviewers were trained social workers who had prior interaction with children living and working on the streets. The interviewers were also taken through Retrak's child protection policy and signed a child protection policy as an agreement to adhere to and protect the child's interest during the study. The interviewers sought informed consent from children before the start of an interview, they signed or gave their thumb print on the consent form. The children were free to stop the interview at any time and were also allowed to take a break in case they felt overwhelmed. The benefits of the research were explained to the children before the interview. Permission to audio tape the interviews was also sought from the children. The audio recordings were kept confidential and the information was only shared among the research groups for transcriptions. There was also a child protection officer available to attend to the children in case the need arose.

Permission to carry out the study was provided by the Ugandan government and technical assistance was received from the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics who were involved in the development and execution of the study.

3.7   Limitations

The qualitative part of this study faced a few limitations, but none were felt to significantly impact the findings of the study. Language barriers were a major challenge since the children came from diverse backgrounds. For instance, since experience of social work and interviewing were prioritised in the selection of interviewers, the interview team did not have a Karamojong speaker. This made it difficult to interview the Karamojong speaking children and so an interpreter was brought in. This slowed down the interview process and may have made the child more uncomfortable about discussing sensitive issues in the presence of two adults.

It was planned that the children would be selected at random from the streets during the enumeration counts and invited to be interviewed at an NGO centre. However, this did not work well as the children felt insecure and were sceptical about being collected by strangers. As described above, instead peer

educators (young people familiar with both the NGOs and the children on the streets) were requested to assist in accompanying the children to the centres.

In order to comply with the child protection procedures all interviews were conducted in secluded places within the NGO centres, where the children could be seen but not overheard. This was to protect the children and adults involved. Such places included a counselling room with an open door or a quiet corner of a larger room or outside space. However, in some of the centres these places were more open than others and there were other children and adults moving around, this could have made some children uncomfortable and more reluctant to open up during the interview sessions.

4. Quantitative findings

4.1   Estimation of children on the streets

4.1.1   Estimation of children aged 7-17 years

Based on the dual systems estimate methodology, it is estimated that there are close to 600 children living on the streets,[46] aged 7-17 years, in Jinja and Mbale; whilst in Kampala there are over 2,600 children living on the streets, aged 7-17 years (see Table 2). Very few children were found to be living on the streets in Iganga and there were no matches between the two counts, this means that an estimate could not be done. However, if it is assumed that the adjustment factor is around the same as for the other towns (4.58 on average) then the estimate would be 133 children.

It is estimated that there are several thousand children working on the streets,[47] aged 7-17 years, in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale. Mbale had the highest number of children working on the streets at over 4,400, Jinja had over 3,100, whilst Iganga had fewer with just over 2,600. In Kampala there are estimated to be 1,400 children working on the streets. It is interesting to note that the adjustment factor in Kampala for children working on the streets was quite different from the other towns, this means that a higher percentage of children met during count 1 were met again during count 2. The adjustment factor for children working on the streets in Kampala was closer to the adjustment factors for children living on the streets in all the locations. This suggests that children working on the streets in Kampala are there more frequently and more consistently as it was easier to find them again in the same areas covered by the enumeration. This will be explored further in section 384.3 which looks at the findings related to children's lives on the streets.

Table 2: Estimates of children on the streets, aged 7-17 years

Group of children and location	Children in count 1	Children in count 2	Matches	Adjustment factor	Total estimate [48]
Children living on the streets, aged 7-17 years					
Iganga	29	3	0	n/a	n/a
Jinja	106	77	14	5.50	583
Kampala	636	431	103	4.18	2,661
Mbale	142	118	29	4.07	578
Children working on the streets, aged 7-17 years					
Iganga	245	75	7	10.71	2,625
Jinja	210	318	21	15.14	3,180
Kampala	222	127	20	6.35	1,410
Mbale	316	295	21	14.05	4,439

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[46] Children living on the streets were those who reported that they slept on the streets or in other public places most nights a week.

[47] Children working on the streets are those who reported that they slept in a home most nights a week but worked on the streets one or more days a week.

[48] The estimate is made by taking the ratio of the matched (M) plus non-matched (NM) respondents divided by the number of matched respondents (M) and multiplying by the net number of respondents in the initial count (N). Figure 2 on Page 22 of this report explains this in more detail.

4.1.2 Count of children aged under 7 years

In addition, the study observed and recorded children under 7 years of age in each location. These numbers cannot be inflated by the dual system estimate process since these children were not interviewed and so there was no matching data by which to compare counts. These numbers instead present the highest total of children observed in either count 1 or count 2 (whichever was highest). At the time of the enumeration an average of 190 young children on the streets were observed in each location (see Table 3). As no further information was gathered from these children they are not included in any further analysis in this report.

Table 3: Count of children on the streets, aged under 7 years

Group of children	Iganga	Jinja	Kampala	Mbale
Children living and/or working on the streets, aged under 7years	221	180	125	237

4.1.3 Estimation of accompanied and unaccompanied children

Within the grouping of children as either living or working on the streets, it is also possible to look at whether the children were accompanied or unaccompanied. [49] In general, most children were unaccompanied on the streets. Children living on the streets were mainly unaccompanied (85-97%), meaning that they sleep in places without family members or other adults. Children working on the streets were more likely to be accompanied, 28-40%, but still the majority in every location were unaccompanied whilst working, meaning they undertook work without supervision from a family member or other adult.

Table 4: Estimation of accompanied and unaccompanied children on the streets

Group of children	Iganga	Jinja	Kampala	Mbale
Children living on the streets				
Accompanied	3%	15%	5%	4%
Unaccompanied	97%	85%	95%	96%
Children working on the streets				
Accompanied	40%	32%	28%	38%
Unaccompanied	60%	68%	72%	62%

Both girls living and those working on the streets were more likely to be accompanied than boys who were living and working on the streets (Figure 3, following page). However, the majority of both boys and girls were unaccompanied on the streets.

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[49] Accompanied for street living children is defined as sleeping on the streets or a public place along with parents, other family members or other adults. Unaccompanied means sleeping in the same place as other (unrelated) children or alone. Accompanied for street working children is defined as working on the streets along with parents, other family members or other adults. Unaccompanied means working with other (unrelated) children or alone.

Figure 3: Accompaniment of girls and boys on the streets, all locations
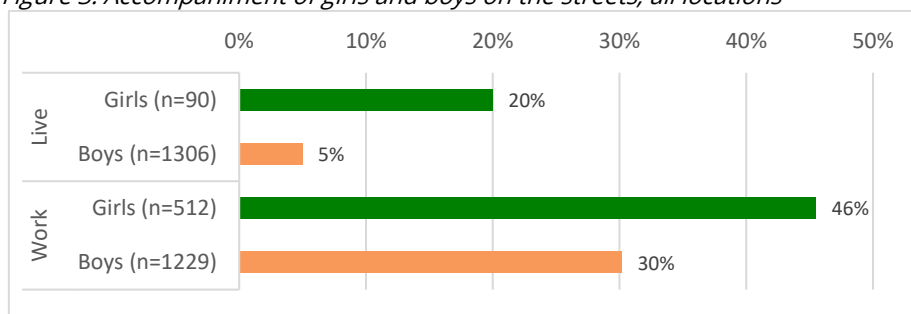
4.1.4   Estimation of Karamojong children on the streets

As noted in the literature review and during expert consultations, children on the streets originating from Karamoja in north-eastern Uganda, have attracted much attention since 2006 when a large number migrated to Kampala and other towns, following a period of conflict in Karamoja largely attributed to the disarmament process which was ongoing at the time. Stakeholders in Uganda are keen to ensure that this study provides greater insights into the situation of the Karamojong on the streets. Therefore, specific results relating to the Karamojong are presented in each section.

Using the dual systems estimate based on the number of children reporting to be of Karamojong ethnicity, it is estimated that there are roughly 3,600 Karamojong children, aged 7-17 years, living and/or working on the streets in Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale.

Table 5: Estimate of Karamojong children on the streets, aged 7-17 years

Group of children and location	Children in count 1	Children in count 2	Matches	Adjustment factor	Total estimate
Karamojong children living and/or working on the streets, aged 7-17 years	261	97	7	13.86	3,617

In terms of accompaniment, the Karamojong children living on the streets in Jinja, Iganga and Mbale seem to be fairly typical of the other children living on the streets in those towns, very few were accompanied (Figure 4a). However, in Kampala the picture was slightly different, 35% of Karamojong children were accompanied while only 4% of other children living on the streets were accompanied. When considering children working on the streets (Figure 4b), in Jinja, Iganga and Mbale the Karamojong were less likely to be accompanied than other children (23% v 38%), whilst in Kampala the Karamojong were more likely to be accompanied than other children (45% v 22%).

Figure 4: Accompaniment of Karamojong children on the streets
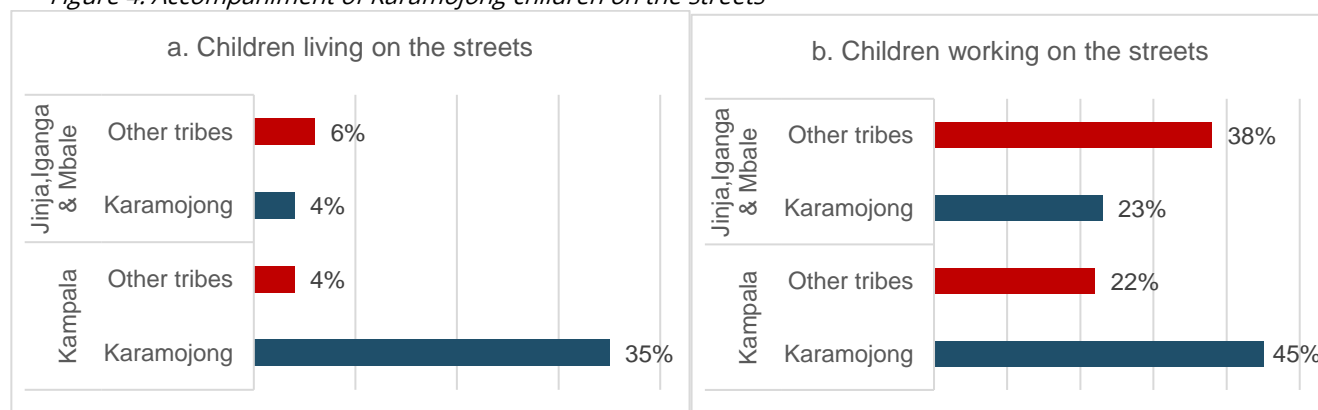
Four percent of the 26 Karamojong children living on the streets of Jinja, Iganga and Mbale were accompanied in comparison with 6% of the 410 for other tribes in the same locations. However, for

Kampala, 35% of the 37 Karamojong children living on the street were accompanied, while only 4% of 923 for other tribes were accompanied.

4.2   Characteristics of children on the streets

4.2.1   Sex

Less than 10% of the children who live on the streets were girls whilst almost 30% of the children working on the streets were girls (Figure 5). It is known that gender often impacts children's experiences, therefore a gender analysis, where relevant, is included in the following sections.

Findings show that there were many more girls within the Karamojong population on the streets compared with the other ethnic groups (Figure 6). This was particularly pronounced within the Karamojong children in Kampala where 96% of Karamojong children working on the streets and 73% of the Karamojong children living on the streets were girls.

Figure 5: Girls on the streets, all locations
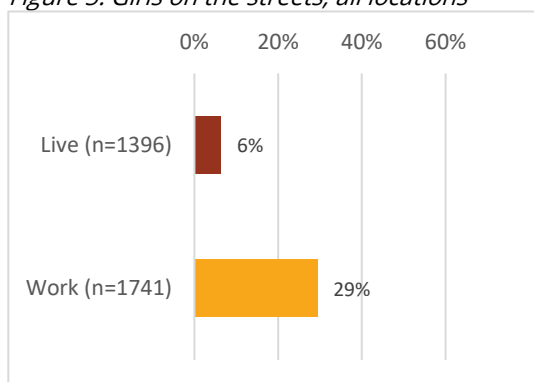
Figure 6: Girls on the streets by ethnicity, all locations
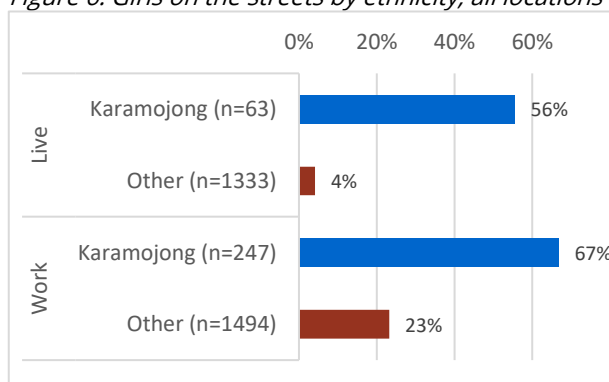
4.2.2   Age

Across the figures for children living and working in the streets, the study found that a higher proportion of children ranged 12 and above, as compared to younger children (Figure 7). This increase was most marked in Kampala, whereas in Mbale the percentage of 16 and 17 year olds was less. A higher percentage of children begin to work on the streets at a younger age, with 22% of children working on the streets aged 7 to 10 years (compared to 9% of children living on the streets).

For both children who live and work on the streets, there was a higher percentage of younger girls than boys, however there were generally fewer girls on the streets as their age increases (Figure 8).

There appeared to be a higher percentage of children under 10 years old within the Karamojong population on the streets, with around 30% aged 7-10 years, compared to around 15% in the rest of the street population (Figure 9).

Figure 7: Age of children on the streets

Figure 8: Age of girls and boys on the streets

Figure 9: Age of Karamojong children on the streets

4.2.3   Ethnicity

The majority of the street children in each location were from the dominant ethnic group in that district. But this varied from close to 75% Basoga in Iganga to 34% Basoga in Jinja (Figure 10). In every location, the second largest group were the Karamojong, on average 10% in each location. However, amongst the children working on the streets in Kampala the Karamojong made up a quarter of the population. Some children were found from outside Uganda, especially in Kampala where 5% of children on the streets came from other east African countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania).

Figure 10: Ethnicity of children on the streets
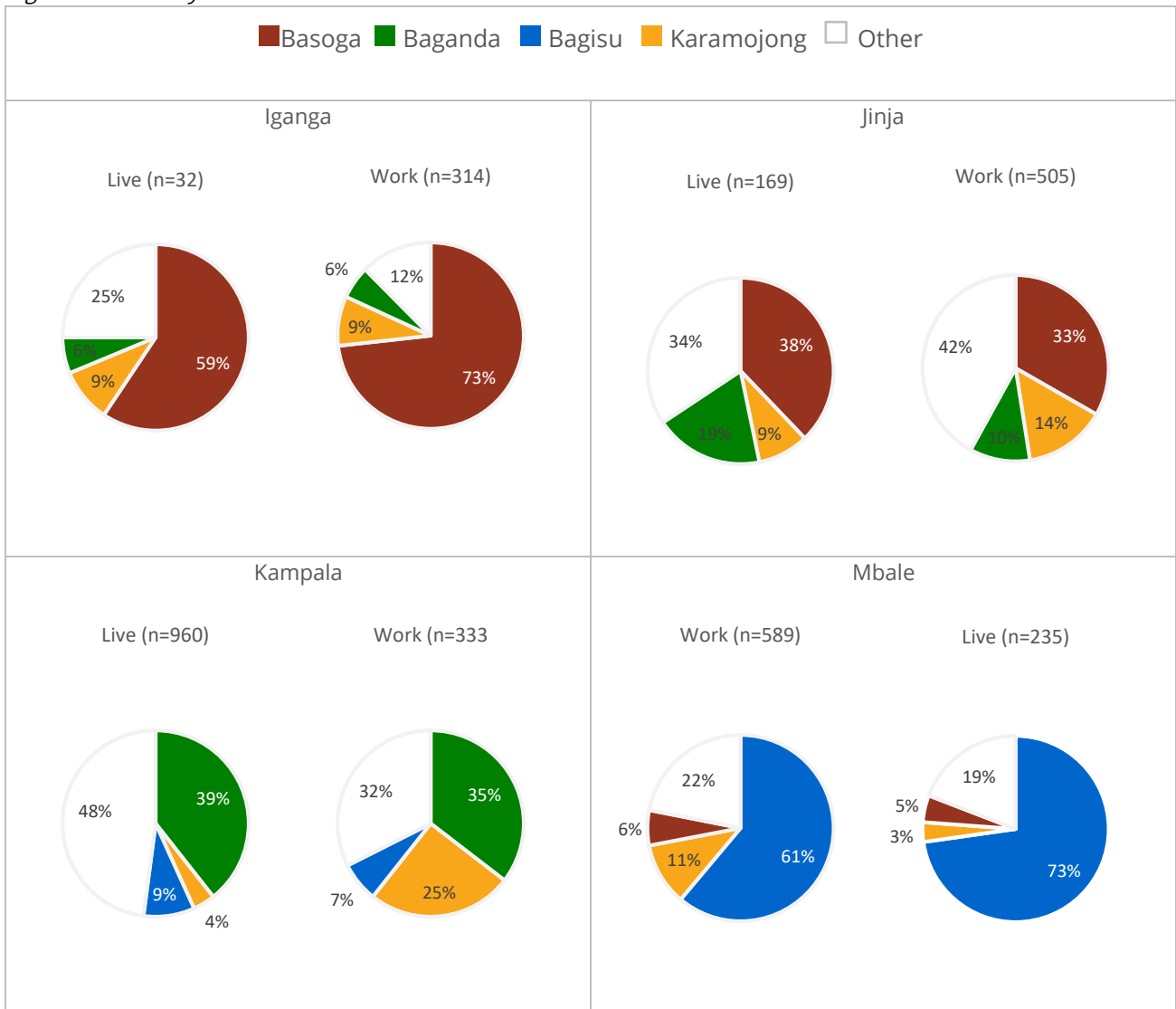
4.2.4   Disability

Only 1% of children in Iganga, Mbale and Jinja were observed to have a disability, and 2% in Kampala. The most common disabilities were speech impairment or deformed limbs. It should be noted that disability was only assessed based on the enumerators observations, as this was deemed too sensitive and complex to ask the children in a short interview. Therefore, this result is likely to be an underestimate of the extent of children's disability, especially of disabilities that are not visible[50].

4.2.5   Home district

Children were asked three questions about their home. Where their family village is, where their parents live now and where they lived most recently (if they had not always lived in their current location).

Figure 11: Children on the streets whose family home is within their current district
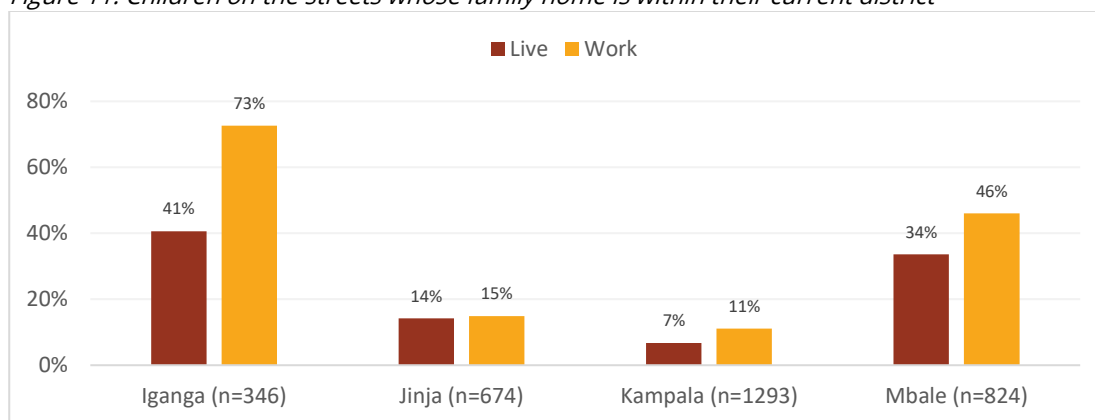
As seen in Figure 11, when asked about where their family home is (in the sense of their rural village home), children working on the streets were slightly more likely to come from the district surrounding their current location than those living on the streets. There was also a clear difference between locations, with children on the streets in Mbale and Iganga being three times more likely to come from the surrounding district (40-50%) than those in Jinja and Kampala (10-15%). Children on the streets in Kampala were the most diverse in terms of the regional mix of their home village, with children coming from all across the country (Figure 12). In Mbale and Iganga most children were from homes in Eastern region (80-90%), whilst for children in Jinja homes in Eastern region were still the majority but to a lesser degree (60%). There was a sizable representation of children from Northern region in Jinja (15-20%) and in Kampala (10-30%), with more children from the North working on the streets than living on the streets in both locations.

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[50] 'Disability' in this context refers to question 41 from the interview form (Annex 2) which asks the observer/enumerator to determine whether the child has an observable disability such as blindness, deafness, speech impairment, missing or weak limb(s), or "other" disabilities.

Figure 12a: Regional distribution of family homes of children on the streets, Iganga, Jinja and Kampala
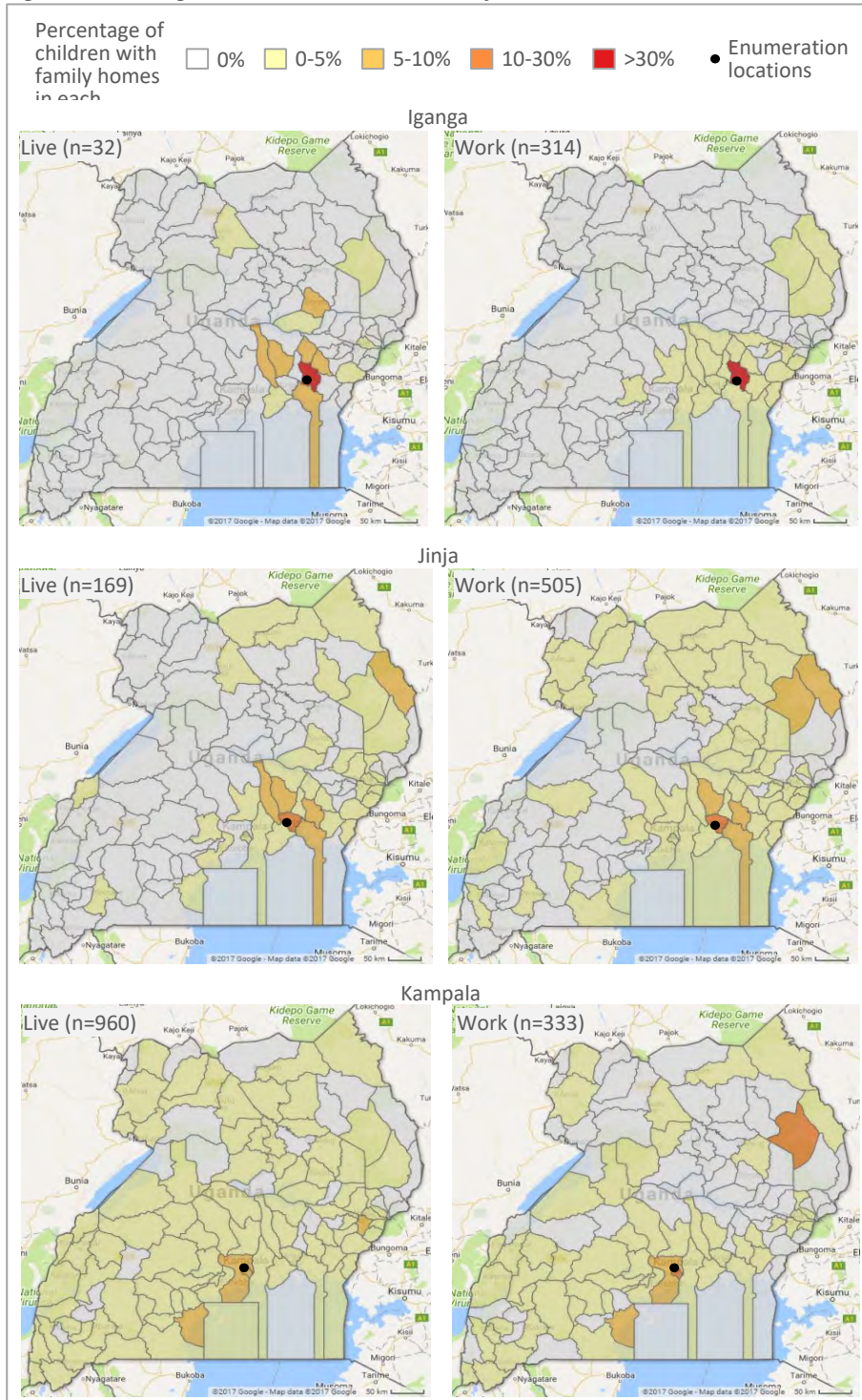
Figure 12b: Regional distribution of family homes of children on the streets, Mbale
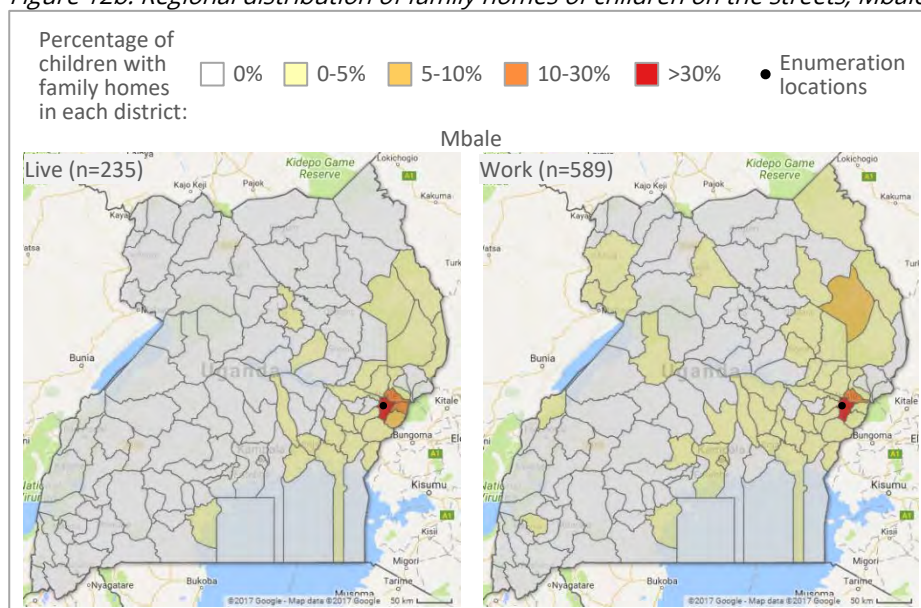
When asked about where their parents are currently living[51], around 50% of children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale had one or both parents living within the district, whilst around 20-25% of children living on the streets had parents within the district (Figure 13). This suggests that in Jinja there were many children who have moved into the district with their parents as only around 15% said Jinja was their family home. This also correlates with the more mixed ethnicity in Jinja. In Kampala, far fewer children, both living and working on the streets, reported that their parents were in the district, only 18% of children working on the streets and only 10% of children living on the streets. Again, this corresponds with the high diversity in ethnicity and family home locations.

Figure 13: Children on the streets whose parents are currently living within the current district

Figure 14: Children on the streets who have previously lived elsewhere
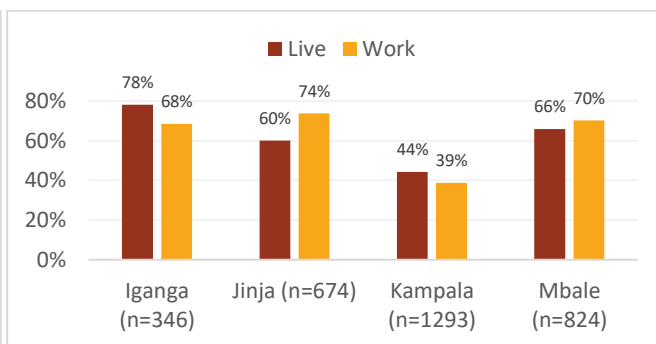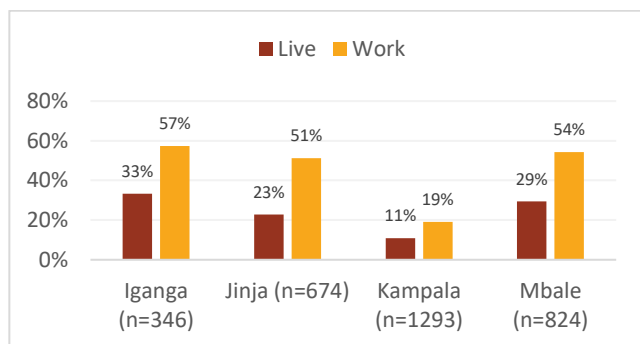
When asked the third question, if they had always lived in the respective towns and if not where they had lived before, most children in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale reported that they had always lived in that current town (60-80%) whilst in Kampala only around 40% of children had always lived in the capital (Figure 14). Children in Iganga and Mbale had mostly previously lived in another part of Eastern Uganda, whilst previous home locations were more dispersed for children in Kampala and Jinja. In Kampala and Jinja, there was a sizeable proportion of children who had previously lived in Northern Uganda. (See Annex 8.7 for maps of previous home locations of children living on the streets.)

When considering Karamojong children's original districts of origin (their family village locations, not necessarily somewhere the children have lived themselves) it is clear that there was diversity in the

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[51] Where parents are living in different places the fathers' location was included in this analysis.

migration patterns from different parts of Karamoja to different towns in Uganda. Nearly all the Karamojong children on the streets in Kampala came from families originally from Napak district (Figure 15). In Mbale over half of the Karamojong children came from Napak, whilst in Jinja children came from both Moroto (40%) and Napak (38%). In Iganga the Karamojong children mostly came from families who now consider Iganga to be their home (62% - shown as blue or 'other' against Iganga in Figure 14).

Figure 15: Family home districts of Karamojong children on the streets
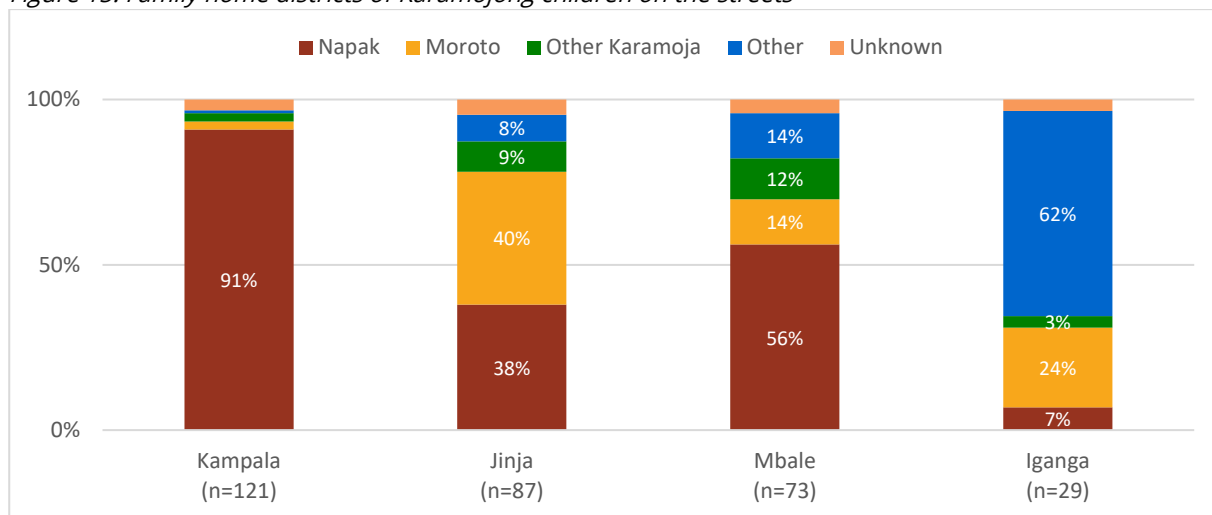
4.3   Street life

4.3.1   Time on the streets

70% of children on the streets reported that they have been on the streets for 2 years or less (Figure 16). The pattern was very similar between those who are working and those who are living on the streets and across all locations.

Figure 16: Length of time children have spent on the streets
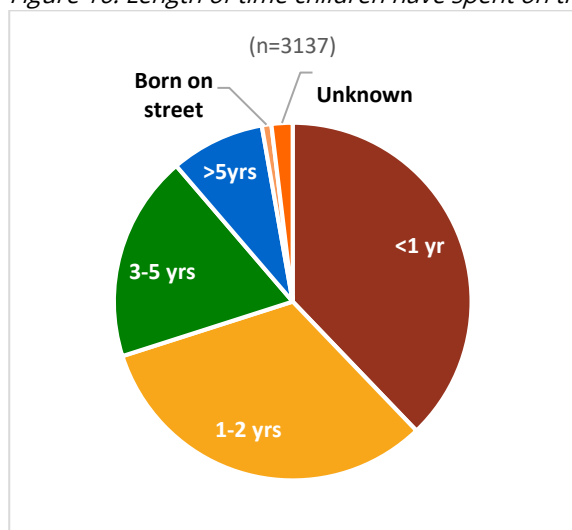
When considering the amount of time children reported to have been on the streets in regard to their age it is clear that children are aging on the streets. Over 50% of younger children, aged 7-10 years, have been on the streets for less than 1 year (Figure 17), reducing to 30% for children aged 15-17 years. The proportion of children on the streets for more than 2 years increased steadily with age.

Overall, more girls than boys have been on the streets for a shorter duration, with slightly over half of the girls having been on the streets for one year or less (Figure 18). 30% of boys have been on the streets

for more than 2 years. This trend is similar for those living and those working on the streets and across all four locations.

Figure 17: Length of time children have spent on the streets by age
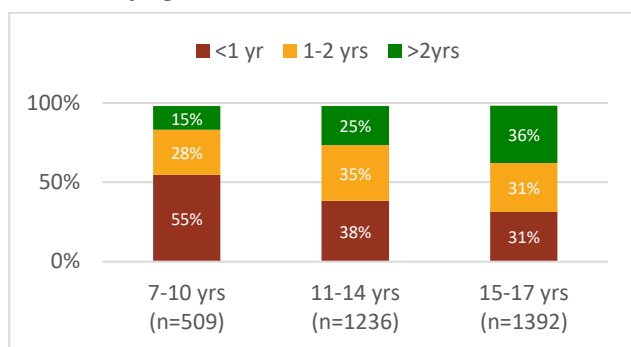
Figure 18: Length of time girls and boys have spent on the streets
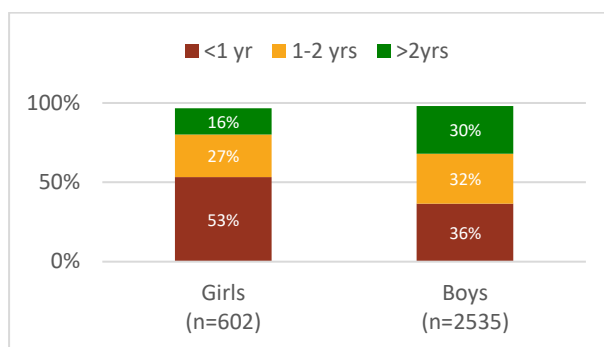
4.3.2   Frequency on the streets

When asked how often they are on the streets, as expected the vast majority of the children who live on the streets reported that they are there every day (Figure 19). Amongst children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale around half are on the streets every day, with the remainder coming to the streets for a few days a week or only occasionally. However, in Kampala over 80% of children working on the streets are doing so every day. There was little difference between boys and girls as to how often they are on the streets.

There was no difference in regard to how often Karamojong children are on the streets compared to other children: like the rest of the population they are mostly on the streets every day, both those working and those living on the streets. There was some variation across the 4 locations, in Kampala the Karamojong children who are working on the streets are much more likely to be there every day (90%) compared with those in Jinja, Mbale and Iganga (around 60% on average). This is consistent with the overall trend in Kampala where there is less difference in street engagement between those living and those working on the streets.

Figure 19: Children on the streets everyday
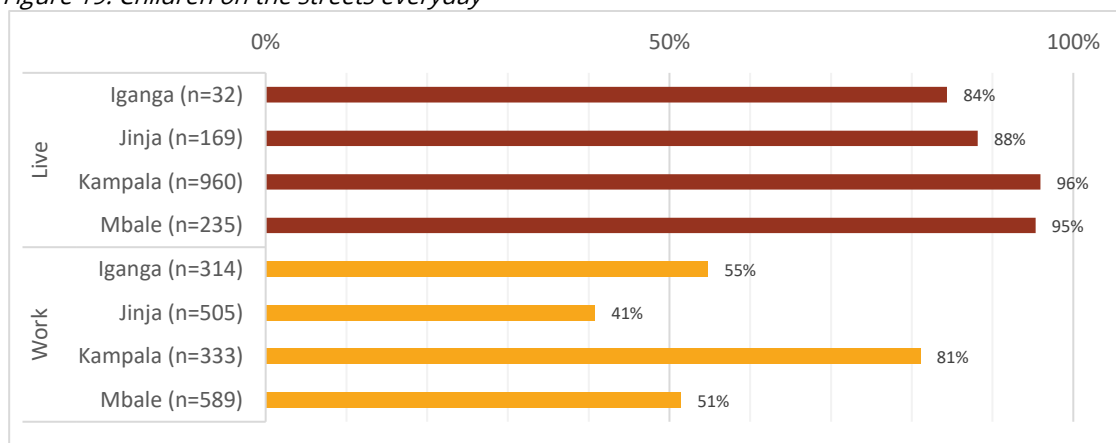
4.3.3   Activity on the streets

Most children working on the streets were involved in selling goods or preparing goods for sale (around 50% in Iganga and Mbale and 70% in Jinja and Kampala) as their main activity (Figure 20). For children living on the streets the most common activity was scavenging (50% or more in all locations), followed by around 20% selling or preparing goods and around 10% carrying loads as their main activity (although this was higher in Mbale at 27%).

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Girls and boys were in general both involved in the same activities on the streets. Scavenging was more often undertaken by boys, with girls slightly more likely to be involved with selling goods instead. Amongst children living on the streets girls were also more likely to be begging than boys.

Figure 20: Main activities of children on the streets[52]
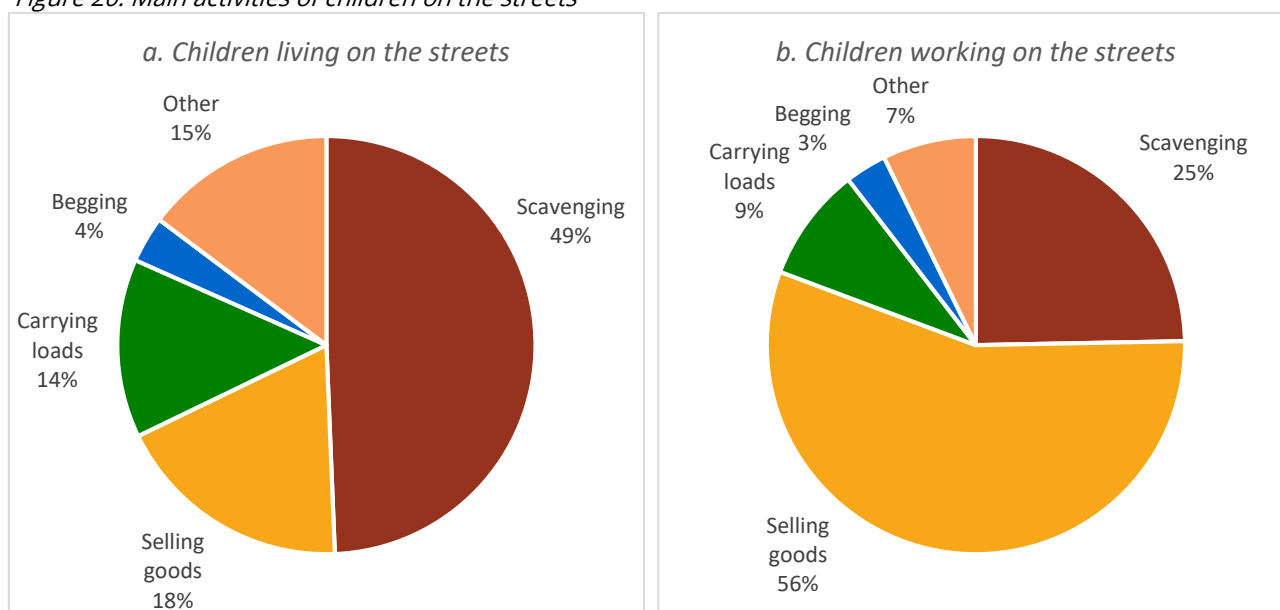
a. Children living on the streets

- Other 15%
- Begging 4%
- Carrying loads 14%
- Scavenging 49%
- Selling goods 18%

b. Children working on the streets

- Other 7%
- Begging 3%
- Carrying loads 9%
- Scavenging 25%
- Selling goods 56%

When asked who they carry out their major activity with, most children across all locations, both living and working on the streets, reported undertaking their activity with other children (Figure 21a). Children living on the streets were slightly more likely to be working with other children (72%) than children working on the streets (51%). 20% of children living on the streets worked on their own, whilst 23% of children working on the streets were doing so with family members (siblings, parents or other family members). Around 10% of children in all locations also worked with adults to whom they are not related.

Girls were more likely than boys to be working with family members, almost a third, and less likely to be working with other children (Figure 21b).

Figure 21: People with whom children undertake their major activity

a. Children on the streets

Live (n=1396)   Work (n=1741)

	Other children	Family members	On own	Other adults
Live	72%	3%	20%	8%
Work	51%	25%	15%	11%

b. Girls and boys on the streets

Girls (n=602)   Boys (n=2535)

	Other children	Family members	On own	Other adults
Girls	46%	32%	12%	12%
Boys	64%	11%	18%	9%
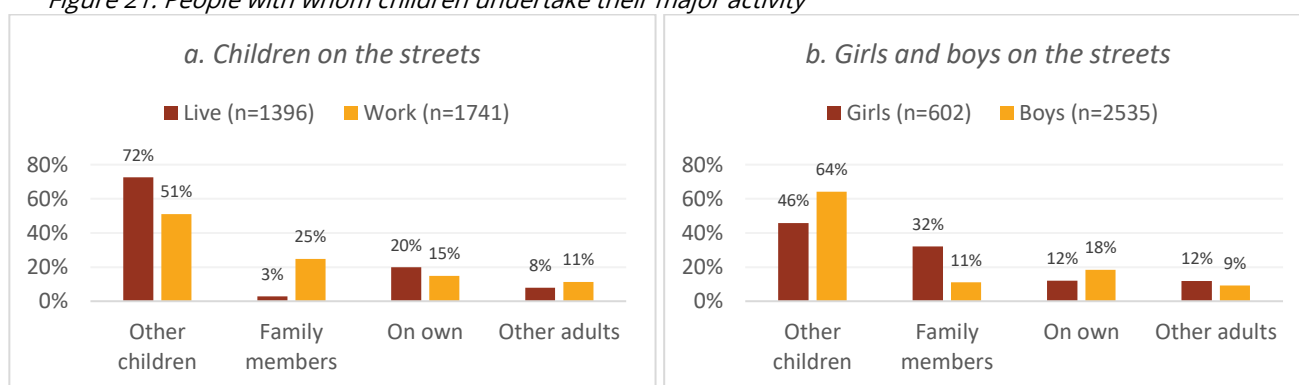
Karamojong children engaged in much the same activities on the streets as other children (Figure 22). They were slightly more likely to be found begging, but this was still only 16% of Karamajong children living on the streets and 8% of those working on the streets. Amongst those living on the streets, Karamojong children were less likely than other children to be scavenging and more likely to be loitering with nothing to do. However, amongst those working on the streets there was a higher likelihood of

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[52] 'Other' in these charts regarding children's activities in the streets includes washing cars, washing dishes, shoe shining, working cattle, street performance and digging.

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Karamojong children scavenging. It should also be noted that the Karamojong children on the streets were working mainly with their friends (65%), which was the same as other children on the streets (60%).

Figure 22: Major activities of Karamojong children on the streets
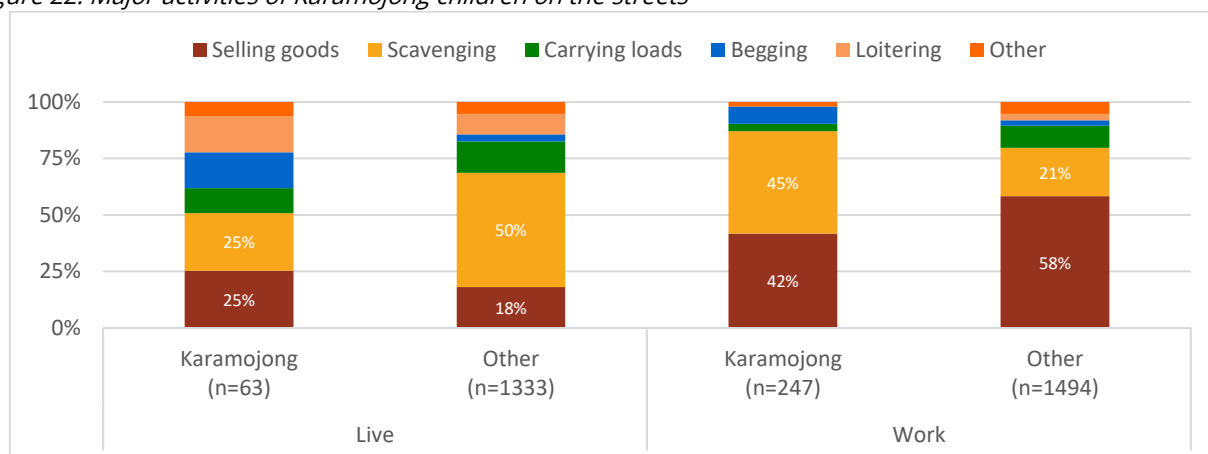
4.3.4   Sleeping on the streets

According to definition used in this study, children living on the streets are those who reported sleeping on the streets or in other public places most nights of the week prior to the enumeration. When asked who they sleep with in the same place, they reported mostly sleeping in the same place as their friends, around 80% across all locations (Figure 23). There was no difference between girls and boys. When asked whether they slept within or outside the town, many of the children who reported living on the streets also reported sleeping within the respective towns (94% in Iganga, Kampala and Mbale, but 74% in Jinja) (Figure 24).

Figure 23: Other people who live in the same place as children living on the streets, all locations
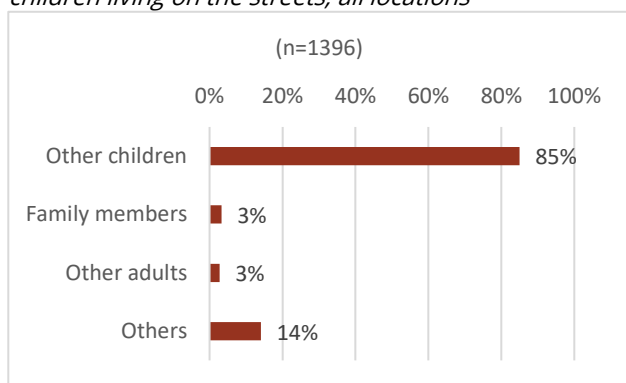
Figure 24: Where children living on the streets sleep in each town
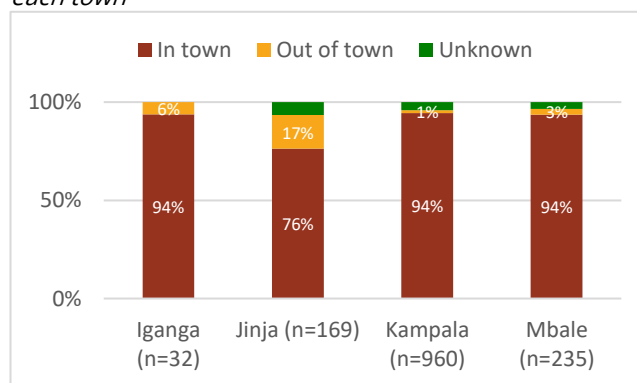
4.4   Home life

4.4.1   Sleeping at home

According to the definition used in this study, children working on the streets are those who reported sleeping in a home most nights of the week prior to the enumeration. When asked who they sleep with in the same place, they reported usually sleeping with family members in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale (86%) (Figure 25a). This differed from Kampala where over half of the working children slept in homes with other children (Figure 25b).[53] In terms of whether these homes were within the town or outside, there were a number of variations between the four locations. In Mbale and Iganga, about 50% of children working on the streets reported sleeping within the town (Figure 26). In Jinja, this was only one quarter, whilst Kampala had the highest percentage of children who work on the streets and sleep within the

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[53] These are children to whom they are unrelated, they are probably renting a small room together.

town at 88%.

Figure 25: Other people who live in the same place as children working on the streets
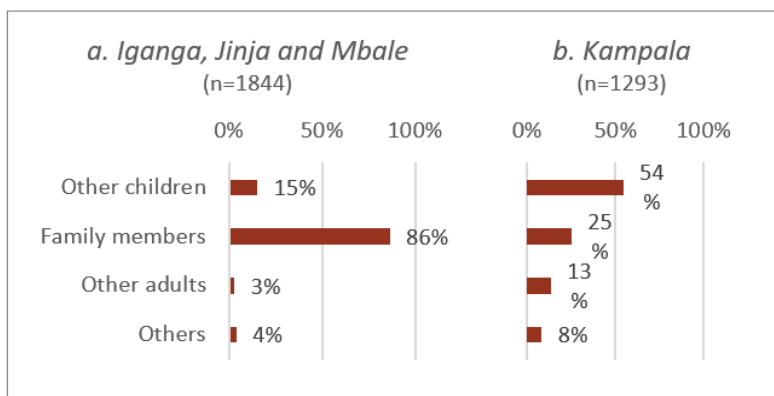
Figure 26: Where children working on the streets sleep in each town
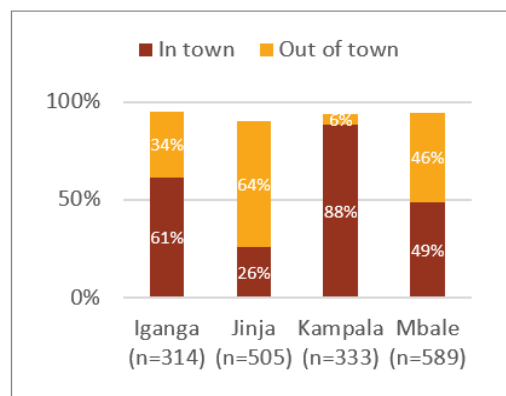
4.4.2   Orphanhood

Most children on the streets reported that they have both parents still alive, with very few being total orphans. However, there appeared to be a sizeable proportion of total orphans (both parents dead) living on the streets in Iganga (44%) (Figure 27). Children living on the streets were slightly more likely to have lost one or both parents (close to 50%) compared with children working on the streets (33%). However, the national average for children with one or both parents dead is 11.5%,[54] therefore children on the streets are more likely to be orphans than the national average, especially those currently living on the streets.

Orphanhood showed similar results between girls and boys on the streets and between the Karamojong and other children on the streets.

Figure 27: Orphanhood amongst children on the streets and nationally in Uganda

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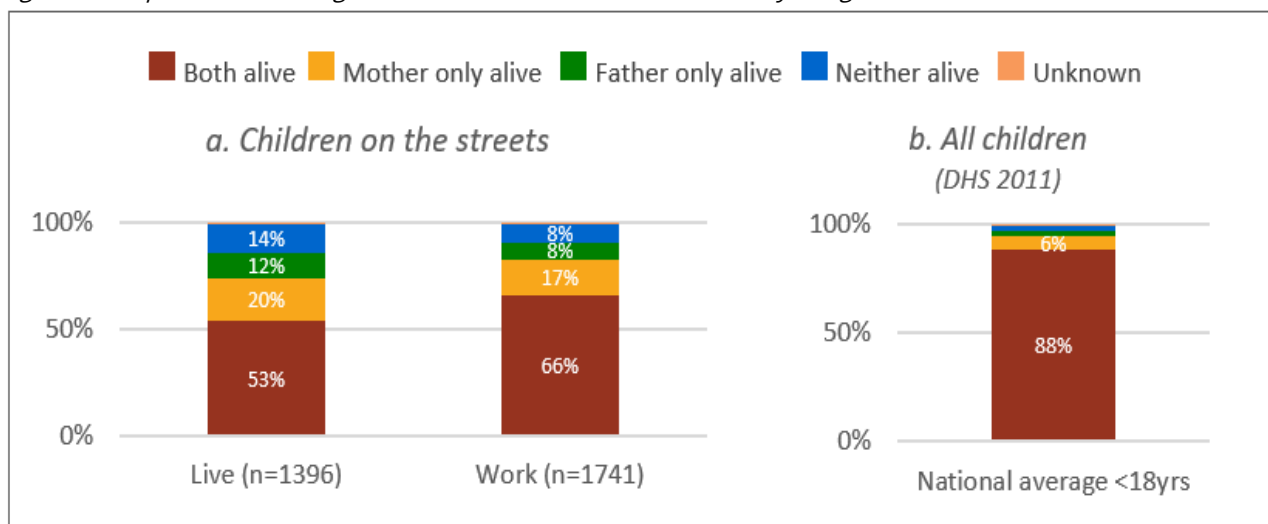
[54] Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) & ICF International Inc, Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011, UBOS & ICF International Inc, 2012.

4.4.3   Caregivers

This study found that 94% of children who reported to be living on the streets were no longer living with their family (this study's definition of unaccompanied). Therefore, they were asked to report who they were living with previously.[55] Over 50% of the children who live on the streets reported previously living with one or both of their parents, with over one third previously living with neither parent (most of these children were living with another relative but 10% were living with a non-relative) (Figure 28). As Figure 28 shows, when compared with the national average, children living on the streets were much less likely to have lived with both parents and more likely to have lived with neither parent.

Children working on the streets (who according to the definition of this study live in homes) were asked to identify their current primary caregiver. In Iganga, Jinja and Mbale, the majority of children working on the streets regarded one or both parents as their primary caregiver (66%) (Figure 29). This was however less than the national average for children living with one or both parents of 80% (see Figure 28). However, in Kampala the majority considered a member of their extended family or a non-relative as their primary caregiver (55%). This perhaps reflects the fact that in Kampala children working on the streets are often living in the same place as other children, rather than family (see Figure 25).

Around half of children who live on the streets indicated that they never see those they consider their primary caregiver. This was higher in Kampala than the other locations, at 60% (Figure 30). In contrast, 70% of the children who work on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale reported that they see their caregiver every day. This is in line with many of these children living in the same home as their caregiver. Again a difference is clear for children who work on the streets in Kampala, as they were much less likely to see their primary caregiver on a daily basis (26%), with 30% reporting that they never see them.

Figure 28: Who children living on the streets lived with and nationally in Uganda
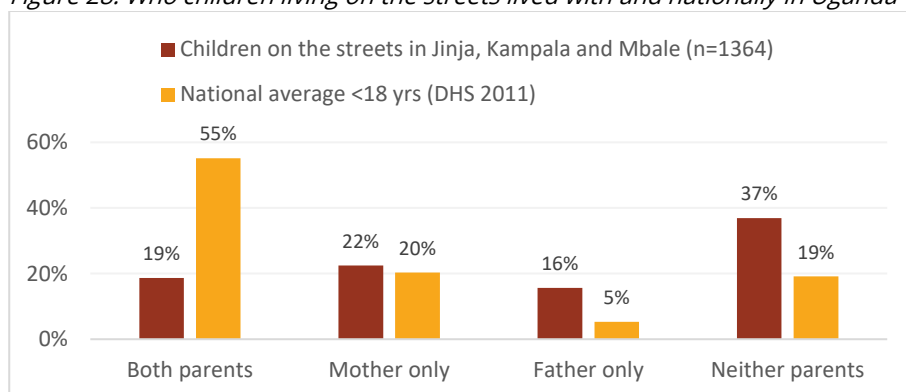
Figure 29: Who children working on the streets consider to be their primary caregiver(s)

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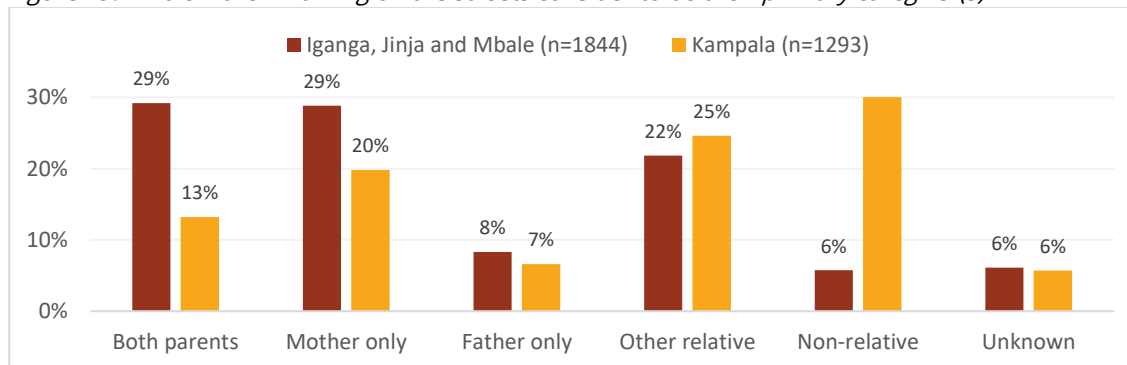
[55] Two thirds of children living on the streets in Iganga did not respond to this question regarding who they were living with before, therefore it has been excluded from this comparison. The reason for the low response rate in Iganga could be due the much smaller number of the children found to living on the streets and the high percentage of children who responded they had always lived in Iganga. Therefore, most of the children interviewed in Iganga may have found this question confusing.

Figure 30: How often children on the streets see their caregiver(s)
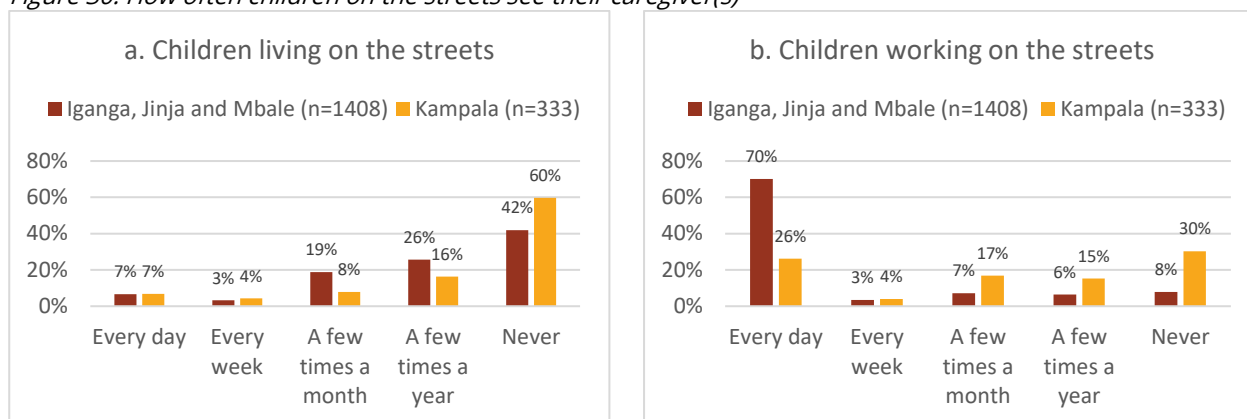
Karamojong children currently living on the streets were slightly more likely to have previously lived with both parents, and less likely to have lived with other relatives compared with other children on the streets (Figure 31). This correlates with a higher share of Karamojong children still living with their parents on the streets, being accompanied.

Karamojong children living on the streets were also more likely than other children to consider one or both of their parents to be their primary caregiver (67% compared to 41%), whilst those working on the streets were much more likely than other children to consider both their parents to be their primary caregiver (33% compared to 25% respectively) (Figure 32). Movement to the streets amongst the Karamojong does not seem to be so closely related to a weakening of parent-child relationships as with other children.

Figure 31: Who Karamojong children living on the streets lived with before
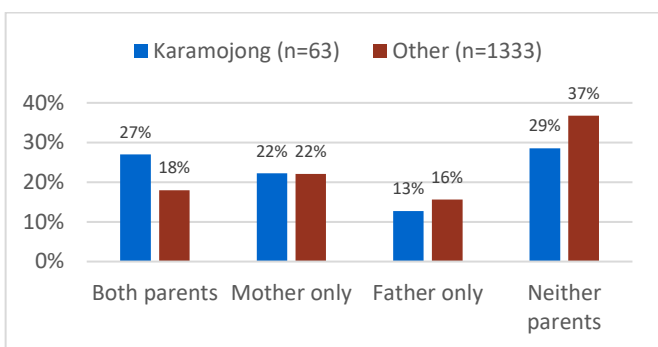
Figure 32: Who Karamojong children working on the streets consider to be their primary caregiver(s)
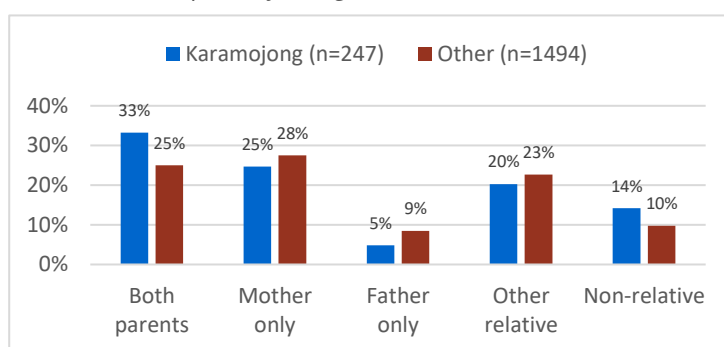
4.5   School life

4.5.1   School enrolment

About 5 in 6 children who live and work on the streets reported they had attended school at some point; however, 14% of the children reported that they had never been to school (Figure 33a). This was consistent across all four locations and for both children who work and those who live on the streets. Across all ages, boys were slightly more likely to have been to school at some point (89%) compared with girls (78%) (Figure 33b).

Figure 33: School enrolment amongst children on the streets
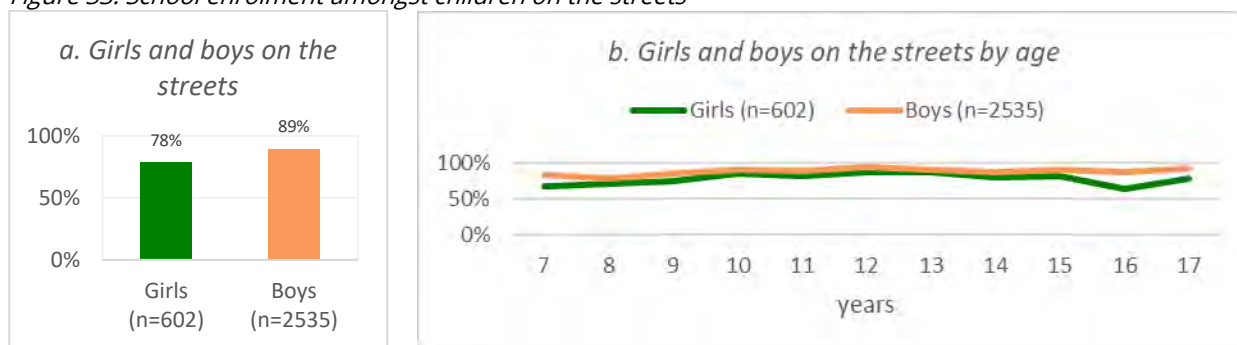
A much greater proportion of Karamojong children on the streets have never been to school (36%) compared with the rest of the street population (7%) (Figure 34a). This is in line with the norm for Karamoja where 58% of the population (all ages) have never been to school compared to a national average of 11%.[56] There was a much bigger gender difference in school attendance amongst the Karamojong children, with 78% of Karamojong boys having attended school at some point, but only 54% of girls (Figure 34b).

Figure 34: School enrolment amongst Karamojong children on the streets, all locations
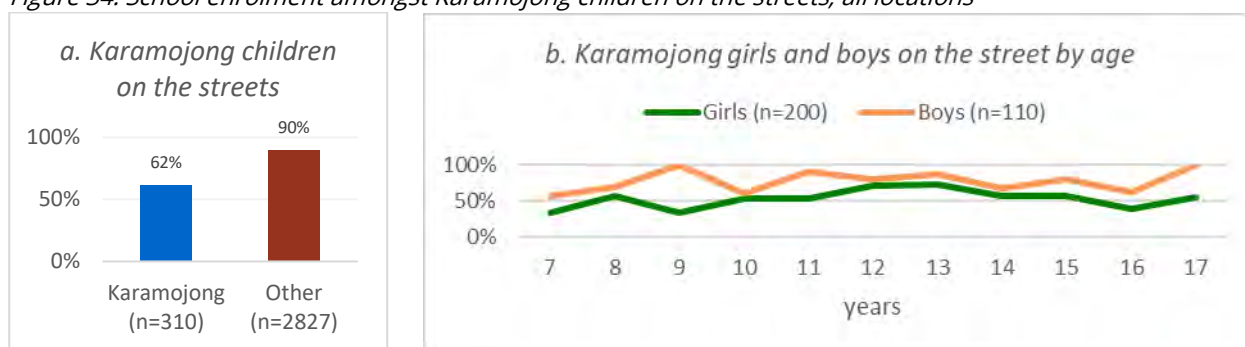
4.5.2   School attendance and progression

Of the children who indicated they had enrolled at school at some point in the past, 80% of those who live on the streets reported they do not currently attend school (Figure 35a). Amongst children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale 45% attend school every day or a few days a week, and 38% never attend school. In Kampala the majority, 71% never attend school (Figure 35b).

When considering school attendance by age, there was a marked difference between the children who live and work on the streets. The vast majority of children who live on the streets never attend school from age 9 onwards, while those who work on the streets become less likely to attend school as they get older (Figure 36). For instance, only 28% of 8 year olds never attend school, whilst 63% of 16 year olds never attend.

Amongst those who have attended school, there was little difference in current school attendance between the Karamojong and other children living on the streets (Figure 37a). However, Karamojong children working on the streets were much more likely to not be currently attending school (62%) compared with other children working on the streets (42%) (Figure 37b).

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[56] UBOS & ICF International Inc, Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011.

Figure 35: Current school attendance amongst children on the streets[57]
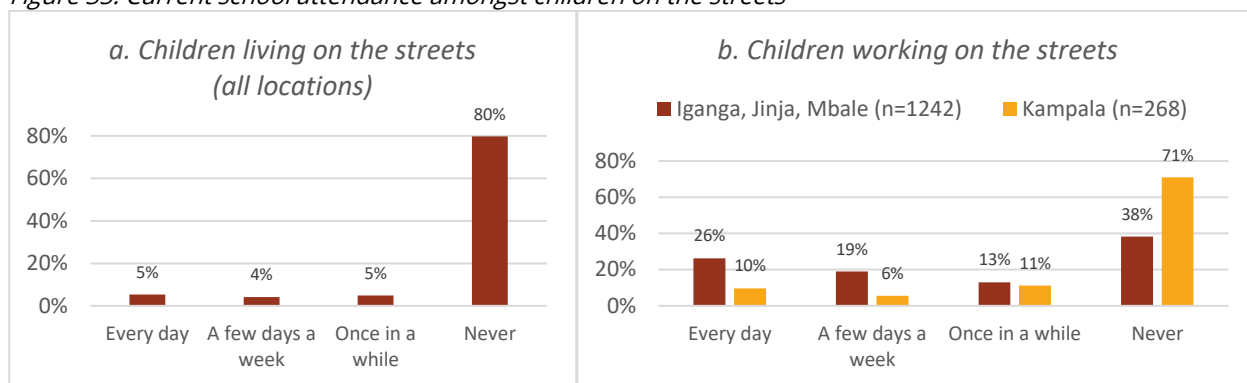
Figure 36: Children on the streets who currently never attend school by age, all locations
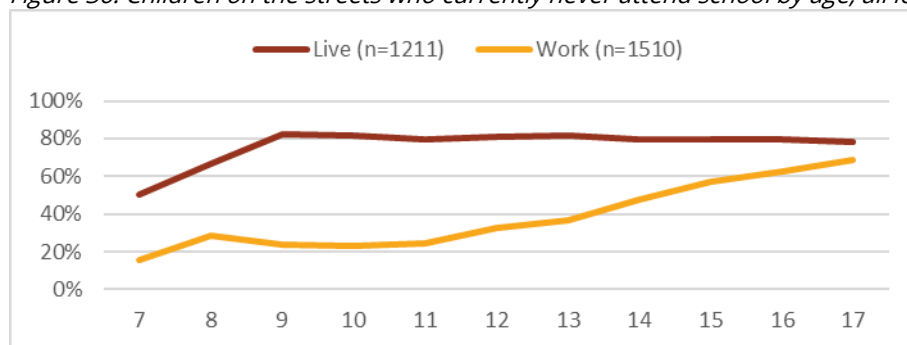
Figure 37: Current school attendance amongst Karamojong children on the streets, all locations[58]
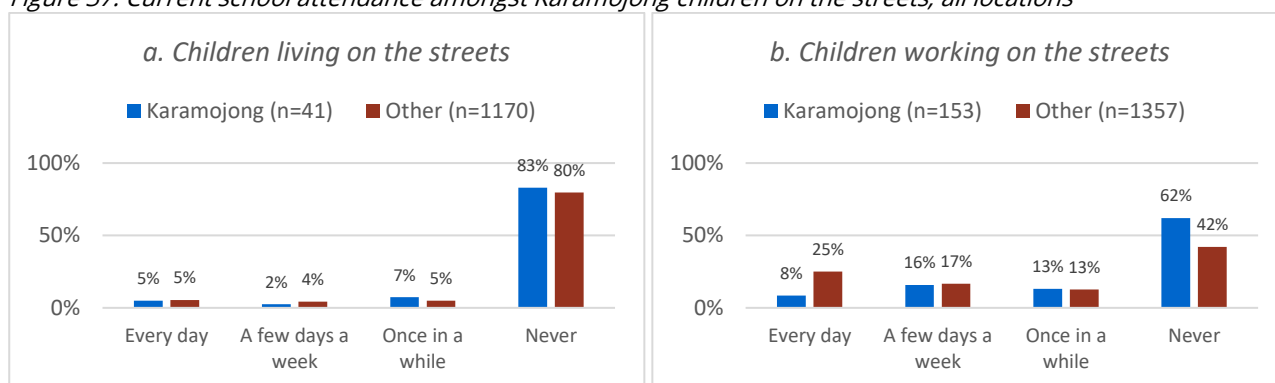
By far the most common reason why children on the streets did not attend school is an inability to afford school costs including fees imposed by schools, uniform or other scholastic materials (Figure 38). This was similar across all the four locations, and between both children who work on the streets and those who live on the streets. Very few children reported that they did not go to school because of work, not wanting to or their friends' influence.

According to the Education Act of 2008,[59] children should automatically progress through primary school, starting in primary school aged 6 years (Primary 1) and completing primary school after 7 years (Primary 7) at 12 years of age. A Primary 1 student should therefore be 6-7 years old. Therefore, a child aged 8 years old in Primary 1 would be considered over age[60]. On this basis, the majority of children on the

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[57] Only includes those who have ever been to school.
[58] Only includes those who have ever been to school.
[59] The Education (Pre-Primary, Primary and Post-Primary) Act, 2008 (Uganda Parliament), s10(3)(a)
[60] T Brunette et al, Repetition of Primary 1 and Pre-primary Education in Uganda, International Development Working Paper No 2017-02, RTI International, 2017.

streets (70%) were over age for their class (Figure 39), which is slightly below the national average of 80%.[61] Only 16% of the students were on time for their age at school, which is very similar to the national average of about 15%. On average, the students were 4 years behind for their age at school. 74% of the children who were over age were behind their required class by three years or more.

Figure 38: Reasons children on the streets give for not attending school
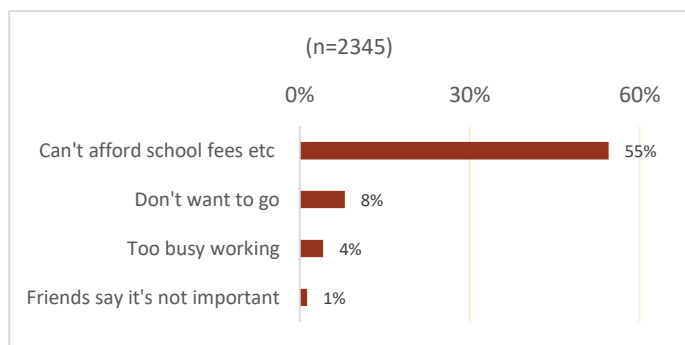
Figure 39: Proportion of children on the streets who are over age at school
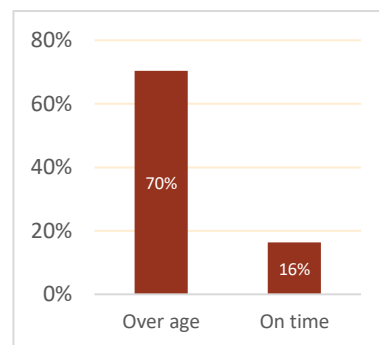
4.6   Engagement with juvenile institutions

Most children reported that they had not been to a government rehabilitation centre or remand home[62] (hereafter referred to collectively as juvenile institution). The highest number of children who reported to have been to at least one of these institutions was those living on the streets in Jinja (36%) followed by those living on the streets in Kampala (25%) (Figure 40). Very few children working on the streets had been to an institution, especially in Iganga and Mbale. There was little difference between the Karamojong and the rest of the street population as to how much they had engaged with government centres.

Of the children who responded to this question, almost two-thirds of the children had been to Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre (KNRC) outside of Kampala, and a further 28% of the children had been to Naguru remand home in Kampala (Figure 41). Most of the children left KNRC (59%) and Naguru remand home (54%) by escaping or running away (Figure 42). Most children left Mbale remand home by being released by the centre and assisted to return home (44%) or being released by the centre on their own or with other children (44%).

Figure 40: Involvement in a juvenile institution amongst children on the streets
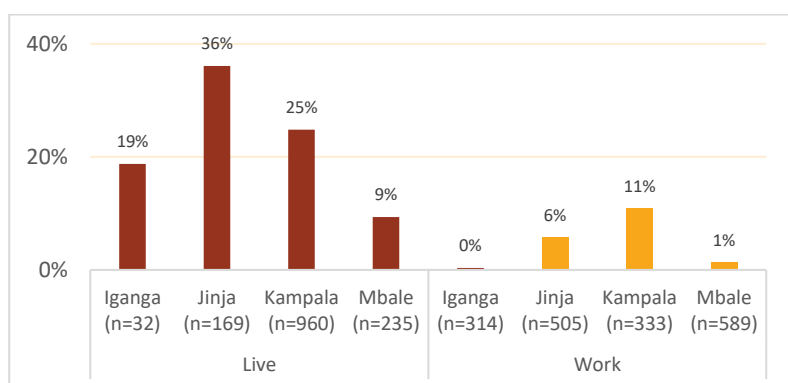
Figure 41: Institutions in which children on the streets have been involved

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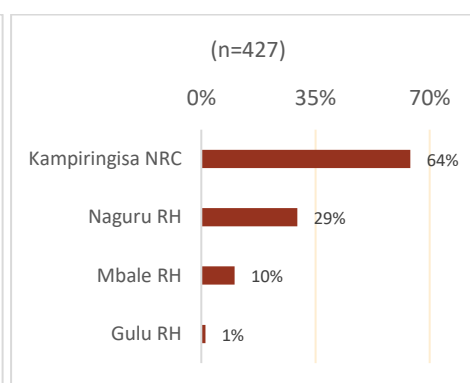
[61] Education Policy and Data Center, Four Studies of Education Growth: Inequality by wealth, Age effects, Sub-national learning differentials, and Projections, Background paper prepared for the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009, UNESCO, 2008.
[62] These are Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre in Mpigi, Naguru remand home in Kampala, Mbale remand home, Gulu remand home and Fort Portal remand home.

Figure 42: How children on the streets exited from juvenile institutions

(only those who answered this question)

■ Just released ■ Assisted ■ Escaped

	KNRC (n=291)	Naguru Remand Home (n=134)	Mbale Remand Home (n=45)
Escaped	59%	54%	11%
Assisted	23%	22%	44%
Just released	17%	24%	44%
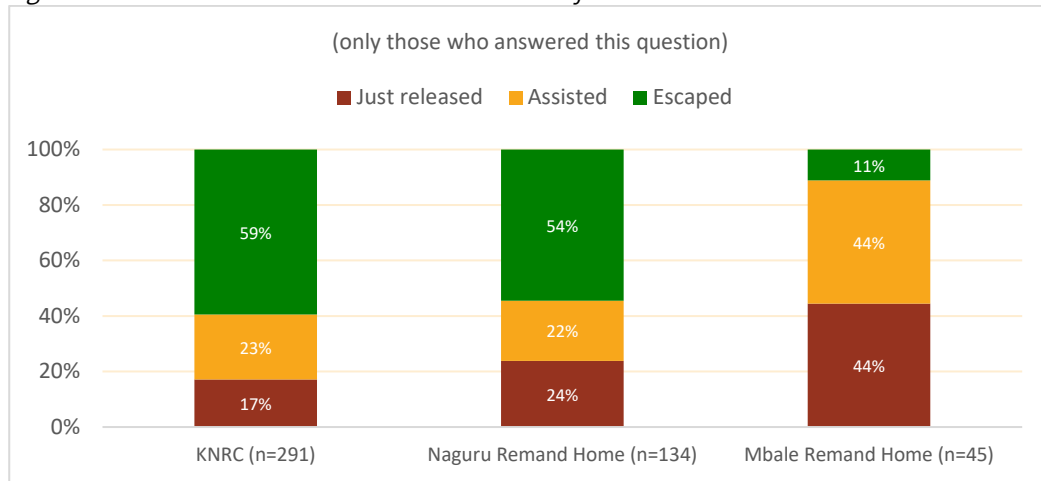
5. Qualitative Findings

The qualitative study sought to complement the estimation of children on the streets by providing an insight into how children see and explain their migration to and engagement on the streets, what and who influences them, how they find their experiences on the streets and how they see their future.

5.1   Background

Fifty children completed in-depth interviews across the four study locations, 23 girls and 27 boys. The period of time that they had spent on the streets varied from a few months to several years, with the majority having stayed on the streets for about two years (35 out of 50). Most of the children talked about a poor, unhappy and unstable family experience. Many of them (20) where orphaned when they were still young.

> "Our father, died… mother ran away from us… I feel bad inside me that I don't know my mother or my father or my siblings." (Female, 13 years old, Iganga)

Some had parents who were divorced or separated, forcing some to live with their grandparents who were often not able to provide basic needs. For instance, half of the children interviewed (10) in Kampala came from broken families and some were living with grandparents.

> "My father and mother are not together. My father separated with my mother. So when they chased my mother, I went with my mother. When I left my mother, because my mother got married to another man. I went to my grandparent. So I stayed there." (Male, 14 years old, Kampala)

Those who lived with their stepmothers or stepfathers reported experiencing abuse, mistreatment and discrimination such as beating and being chased away from home.

Figure 43: Children's drawings of their journeys to the street
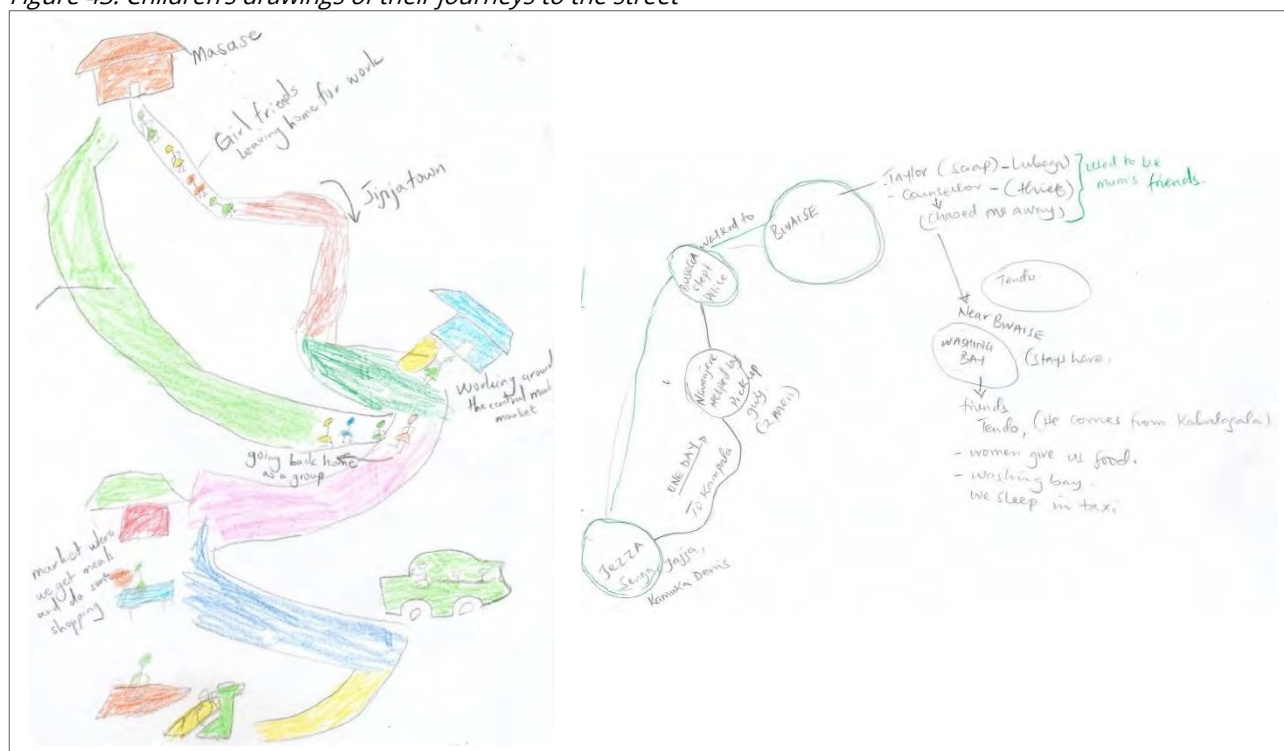
> "I used to stay with my stepmother. Now, the way she used to treat her children and us, she discriminates against us. She can give others nice things and gives us the bad ones." (Female, 17 years old, Kampala)

Most of the children (26) had stopped schooling at primary three, four or five. Only a few children (3) had reached senior school. The reasons given by the children for not going to school included a lack of money to pay school fees, being orphaned or family separation. Some children (10 out of 50) had never gone to school.

> "I stopped in Primary 7... there was no money.... Because father did not have enough money for us to continue with education." (Female, 14 years old, Mbale)

> "For the education, she [step-mother] only educates her children that she came with from outside, my real mother who gave birth to me is not there." (Male, 17 years old, Mbale)

> "My parents died when I was still young and so I wasn't able to study". (Male, 15 years old, Iganga)

Most of the children in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale were in touch with their family and they visited them frequently because of the proximity to their homes, unlike the children in Kampala.

> "I see them, they come here, I even sometimes go back home." (Male, 13 years old, Jinja)

> "I go back and see the situation in which mother is. After seeing her I come back." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

Those working on the streets also mentioned that they let their parents know that they are coming to the streets

> "Yes, I even said bye to her in the morning, I just told her that am going to come back, I take for her money any amount that I get." (Male, 11 years old, Jinja)

However, others mentioned that they would not like to go home, either because they will be beaten or because there is no one to go and visit.

> "I will not go back, he [father] might beat me." (Male, 10 years old, Kampala)

> "I can't live with either my father or my mother. My mother has another husband and my father also has another wife." (Male, 14 years old, Kampala)

Some children reported that their family does not expect anything from them, whilst others are supporting their family by buying food or taking money home.

> "There is nothing they expect at all." (Male, 14 years old, Iganga)

> "I buy food and I take it home he doesn't tell me, I just buy." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

5.2   What influences children to engage on the streets

In order to help inform appropriate responses to children on the streets, stakeholders in Uganda wanted to hear from the children about some of the push and pull factors that influences them to engage on the streets. Push factors are the structural issues, at a national or societal level, that create social and economic conditions at a family or community level which then force or induce a child to engage on the streets. Pull factors are the conditions on the streets that attract children from the community. This study found that children recognised push factors at the family level more than pull factors and rarely noted wider structural issues at the community and societal levels.

Although these factors are presented under different headings they are all inter-related and overlapping. It is never one push factor operating alone, but a complex mix of experiences which eventually makes children feel they have no choice but to leave or that they would be better off finding a way to support themselves on the streets.

5.2.1   Push factor: Poverty

Poverty was mentioned by the children (11 out of 50) as one of the major underlying push factor for them to move onto the streets. It was found that poverty is the foundation of other factors. Family poverty is a leading factor for children to drop from school and to start loitering around and to eventually end up on the streets.

> "When [my father] died, my mother ran away from us. She first left us there with my siblings… the house was made of mud, it collapsed because of rain. My siblings ran away from me, then I came to the streets and slept there with other children on the streets." (Female, 13 years old, Iganga)

> "My mother and father are poor… no money. Even at home, no chicken or goats, so let me go and look for money I want to go back to school. If I get money I will go back to school." (Female, 17 years old, Kampala)

Children in the towns of Iganga, Jinja and Mbale, who had dropped from school and were stuck at home with nothing to do, opted to go to the streets to find some activities. However, most still went back home in the evening. In Kampala, the children were more often fully on the streets to work and live there.

For the Karamojong children poverty, compounded by drought and lack of food, was a major push factor for them to leave home and go to the streets. The lack of alternative economic opportunities at home made them go and find jobs elsewhere, so as to assist their families back at home.

> "There was a lot of famine, so my aunt turned against me and she started chasing me." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

> "There was drought in the village, yet they had not cultivated, so we used to suffer from there, then I came here and I said 'let me go to Jinja on the streets, whether I can afford to go to school or not, I stay there.'" (Female, 16 years old, Jinja)

5.2.2   Push factor: Family breakdown

The second major contributing factor for moving to the streets which children mentioned was family breakdown, both through the death of a parent or separation of parents. A total of 20 out of the 50 children interviewed came from separated families and were either living with grandparents, stepparents or other relatives. Lack of parental care from these relatives left children feeling neglected and unwelcome, so they chose to leave.

> "I came to the streets because I didn't have any one to care of me." (Female, 13 years, Iganga)

> "What brought me on the streets from Jinja to Iganga, I wanted to be well because where I was at my aunt's place she was harassing me, since my father died and my mother went back to Moroto". (Female, 14 years old, Iganga)

Some children spoke of how a death in the family led to property, such as houses and land, being taken away or sold, making it difficult for the children to remain at home.

> "When father died, mother ran away I didn't have help. Even mum sold the land without me knowing. I didn't have where to sleep then I went to the streets" (Male, 12 years old, Iganga)

> "When our mum died … the owner of the house chased us from the house. I came to the streets because I didn't have anyone to care of me." (Female, 13 years old, Iganga)

5.2.3   Push factor: Physical abuse

Violence at home from a caregiver, was reported by several children (11 out of 50) as part of the reason they moved from home to the streets. This was often as a result of poverty and family breakdown. Boys reported family violence more than girls.

"They used to beat me because of delaying at school or at the well. They used to beat me using sticks. Dad used to beat me the most." (Male, 10 years old, Jinja)

"My aunt was mistreating me… when I would go to do some work on coming back she would abuse me… wanting to cut me…telling me that I should leave her, so I decided to leave her to start a new life." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

"My father used punished me a lot. He would spank you whenever he returned home drunk." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

"Our stepmother, would beat us. Our father would spend the whole day quarrelling and when he goes back to town our stepmother says why have you reported me to your father and she beats us again. She chases us away and says you go." (Female, 15 years old, Kampala)

5.2.4   Push factor: Sexual abuse and early pregnancy

Sexual abuse and early pregnancy was mentioned by a few girls (7 out of 23). Some felt that they were at risk of sexual abuse and hence ran away from home and came to the streets. Other girls who got pregnant at home were neglected and lacked food and clothing for their new born child, so opted to go to the streets to provide for themselves and their child.

"I had come to look for a job, so that I take care of my child." (Female, 15 years old, Kampala)

"My uncle wanted to rape me and sleep with me, so I ran away from there." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

5.2.5   Pull factor: Search for a job

Some of the children (18 out of 50), both girls and boys, reported that the decision to find a job and get their own money was a major influencing factor. They wanted to find jobs to be able to provide for their daily needs, as well as to support their families. Many of them hoped to get employment that would enable them to get school fees and therefore continue with their education. Although both boys and girls wanted to find money on the streets, more boys reported that it was their friends who persuaded them to come to search for a job.

"And I came to the streets searching for a job." (Male, 14 years old, Kampala)

"There are people who help children on streets, I also said let me go, so that I can get money for education." (Male, 16 years old, Jinja)

5.3   Who is involved in influencing children and in what ways

There are several people who were mentioned as being involved in the movement of children from their home to the street life. The most frequently mentioned were the children's friends (10 out of 50). They mentioned friends as being involved in persuading them to come, accompanying them to the streets, living together and helping each other when in need while on the streets.

"My friends are the ones who brought me here." (Male, 10 years old, Jinja)

"There is a friend of mine he stays in Karamoja he has his business there. And I told him to also take me and I go and get some money. He agreed and told me to come we go." (Male, 16 years old, Jinja)

The children were promised a good life and also job opportunities by their friends. However, this expectation was rarely met when they came to the streets. They found life to be harder and wished that they could go back home.

> "Those people who had gone to Iganga and came back to Moroto told me that there was good living conditions, I heard that everything there is good and so that forced me to go to Iganga." (Male, 15 years old, Iganga)

> "So when he [friend] came to the village he told me: 'why is your stepmother mistreating you, why don't we go to Mbale on the streets?' He told me that there are good things on the streets." (Male, 14 years old, Mbale)

Some children (6 out of 50) reported being abandoned on the streets by the parents and siblings, and that is how they ended up engaging in street activities.

> "It is my sister who stole me from my mother's place and she brought me up to there in Teso, and she then abandoned me there." (Female, 13 years old, Kampala)

> "On the streets here it's my father who brought me here together with my sister and she left me…. Mmh… I even don't know where she is right now." (Female, 12 years old, Iganga)

Also some children mentioned receiving help from other strangers like drivers and taxi operators who sympathised with them and either gave them some money or offered them lifts.

> "Then there was a man who drives trailers. He stopped and gave me a lift, he brought me up to here and he gave me five thousand shillings." (Female, 17 years, Kampala)

> "I came alone, even the taxi that I came with just helped me, they did ask me for money." (Female 13 years, Kampala)

However, some children did not have anyone to introduce them to the streets but rather made their own decision to walk to the streets with the hope of a better life.

5.4   Movements from home to the streets

5.4.1   Journeys to the streets

The children shared that they had various ways in which they arrived at the streets. Some of them had to make very long journeys which took them several hours or even days. Many of the children (19 out of 50) made the journey largely on foot, while others (19 out of 50) used the taxis, buses, lorries or boda boda (motorcycles) at some point in their journey. Most of the boys walked on foot, whilst the girls saved up money and used taxis.

> "When I left home I came on foot. I left home at 10:00am then I reached this way at 4:00pm" (Male, 12 years old, Mbale)

> "I came alone, I walked on foot, I met a girl I asked whether the road I had taken reaches to Kampala so she said yes and I continued until when I reached" (Male, 15 years old, Kampala)

The children who used transport often saved up money to be able to pay, meaning they had planned for the journey to the streets by first starting to find activities to earn some income to save.

> "I also used to dig or prune banana plants… I saved some money… You prune banana and get three thousand…then we can take a taxi." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

> "We went to the farm, collected and we sold fire wood while we saved the money. When it was enough for transport, we boarded a bus to here." (Female, 17 years old, Jinja)

> "I had my friends who used say that Iganga was good. I kept my money and when it accumulated I boarded a bus and came to Iganga" (Male, 15 years old, Iganga)

However, some of the children did not have any or enough money for transport and so they started the journey by walking and then jumped onto moving vehicles.

> "I walked, then I climbed a big vehicle… I climbed it without the driver knowing… I had walked for one day… when night falls I would jump on big vehicles, the lorries that work at night. I would jump on those ones and they bring me closer… I would get a veranda and sleep, then resume walking at five in the morning." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

> "I came alone, even the taxi that I came with just helped me, they did ask me for money… I told him that I don't have any as my sister has disappeared from me." (Female, 13 years old, from Moroto)

5.4.2   Frequency of journeys to the streets

The journey to the streets for some children is a daily routine, whilst others have not made any further moves since arriving on the streets.

> "I leave home at 8:00am, move on foot and come to town. I go back home like at four or five." (Female, 17 years old, Muyanda-Mbale)

> "I've remained here…. I have never gone to any other place." (Female, 14 years old, Mbale)

Some children (5 out of 50) talked about how they had been taken home from the streets, either by an NGO or their family, but that the situation at home had not changed so they decided to come back to the streets.

> "I was once here, and they came and picked me [uncle], he came and collected me, when he came for me, he just took me to my aunt's home but the condition there was not good and I came back." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

> "She [aunt] looked for me, and took me back, but I came back." (Male, 13 years old, Jinja)

5.5   Expectations

The children, both girls and boys, shared that they had great expectations when they were coming to the streets. Most of them expected to get a job, to make money and to help their parents.

> "I expected… I prayed to God for blessings for me to work like my fellows. To get money and help my parents." (Female, 17 years old, Jinja)

> "I expected to get money and I go back home… So that mummy doesn't beat me." (Male, 14 years old, Mbale)

A few of them expected to receive some help and support from people so that they could go back home and continue with their studies.

> "There are people who help children on streets, I also said let me go, so that I can get money for education." (Male, 16 years old, Jinja)

> "I was expecting to eat good and first class things, and to go back to school if I found foreigners to take me on." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

> "I thought that I would be able to get a better life, so that I get money which will help me to start schooling." (Male, 15 years old, Iganga)

However, as much as the children expected money and help from the streets this did not turn out to be the reality and almost all the children reported that their expectations were not met.

> "But I found that the situation here is not good at all." (Female, 17 years old, Kampala)

> "I thought I am going to get a job in Owino [market] since I had just come and knew how to work. But as you know, I realised the bosses shout a lot over nothing." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

Only a few children reported their expectations were met.

"I came to make money... I make money... but not much." (Male, 13 years old, Iganga)

"Our village, it was difficult to see foreigners and yet [my friend] wanted to see them, and to see airplanes. When we reached to Kampala we saw the foreigners... they take us to the beach, [malls], and also in high class places and we also enjoy." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

5.6   Activities engaged in by children on the streets

After their expectations were not met and in order to survive on the streets, the children explained how they found themselves involved in various activities in order to buy food, clothing and shelter. For example, the Karamojong girls were involved in selling produce and a few of them did some manual work like washing utensils or people's clothing, or accompanying their male friends in collecting and selling scrap metals.

"Sometimes I and my brother go pick scrap metals and tins and sometimes when we sell them we are able to get either five hundred shillings or one thousand shillings and we get what to eat." (Female, 13 years old, Iganga)

However, the majority of the girls in Kampala (4 out of 5) were not involved in any major activity and hence just walk around in town begging from passers-by and passengers for food and money. Girls with children carried them on the back for people to feel more sympathetic towards them.

"The one who used to help me and give me money, they are people I used to beg from. We could go for begging and someone can give you 500 shillings, and another one gives you water to go and drink." (Female, 7 years old, Iganga)

"We beg. We go to the shops like those of the Indians and we beg, and we go back to our streets and sleep." (Female 16 years, Kampala)

Unlike girls, the majority of the boys were involved in various activities, especially manual labour, that enabled them to get money for use to survive on the streets. For instance, they were mainly involved in scavenging for scrap metals, polythene bags, bottles and plastic containers and charcoal. They also carried luggage, fetched water and collected garbage.

"I fetch water for people... plus collecting garbage... and collecting scrap." (Male, 7 years old, Jinja)

5.7   Challenges faced by children on the streets

All the children reported that they faced some challenges while on the streets. However, those who were accompanied by family members reported to have an advantage due to the support from their elders. They offered protection and showed concern as to whether the child has eaten or has a good place to sleep.

"I stay with my brother and sometimes he buys for me what to eat and also when he gets like five hundred shillings we buy a shirt." (Female, 13 years old, Iganga)

"I am alone with my brother... There are some I see who could stay with their aunts or mothers... they can go to them and ask for what to eat, and they are given." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

Other unaccompanied children reported facing challenges such as lack of food, shelter and clothing, which were common among both girls and boys.

"Sometimes it is so difficult to get what to eat, where to sleep and clothing." (Male 13 years, Iganga)

"Sometimes we would fail to get food, so we dressed like boys, started picking bottles." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

> "Hunger strikes you all the time." (Female, 15 years old, Kampala)

> "No one can look at me until I force myself to come and look for something to eat." (Male, 14 years old, Iganga)

5.7.1   Girls' challenges

Lack of sanitary towels

Many of the girls interviewed (11 out of 23) reported a lack of sanitary towels as a major challenge. This affects their hygiene and self-esteem and at times forces them to hide from their peers.

> "These menstruation periods… you might go through them without even having a cloth to change because you also cannot allow yourself to be seen around, you have to hide yourself." (Female, 16 years, Kampala)

> "We as girls, when you grow breasts, and now we begin our periods, for women when you don't have what you are to use, pads, like now when you have a cloth you get that and use, yet on the streets other girls when they can't manage, they can go and engage in prostitution, and others they hide and some start to smell." (Female, 14 years old, Iganga)

> "When the girls used to start their menstruation periods they could have nothing to pad themselves and so [we want] someone who can help us can buy us pads. But we used to get leaves and put there." (Female, 12 years old, Iganga)

Rape and sexual abuse

The other significant challenge reported by the girls was rape and sexual abuse. Some of the girls interviewed (6 out of 23) disclosed that they had been raped or sexually harassed by the boys on the streets.

> "Youth gangs that move around at night, they came. They were 10 in number, and they told me, 'What are you doing here at this time? You are a beautiful young lady, what are you doing outside at this time?' And they told me, 'If you refuse to have sex with us, we are going to stab you and we leave you dead. So remove your pants, and let us have sex. If you dare fight back or make noise, we will kill you.' In fact, that's what I did, 10 people to have sex with you!" (Female 17 Years, Kampala)

Alongside the emotional trauma of sexual abuse, it also exposed girls to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. In addition, they have found themselves with unwanted pregnancies and some ended up delivering their babies on the streets. It was clear that they lacked an appropriate way to report their cases and to seek medical attention.

5.7.2   Boys' challenges

Unlike girls, boys reported that they were more exposed to physical violence and abuse by the police and the general public. For instance, they may be beaten up when found stealing or when alleged to have stolen from someone.

> "When you go to steal something that someone expected to use, they beat you to death." (Male, 14 years, Mbale)

> "By the way, there is a lot of hatred. Patrol [police] might arrest us and cane us." (Male, 14 years, Kampala)

> "Boda boda guys beat us, they call us thieves. They tease us that policemen are coming to arrest us." (Male, 11 years, Kampala)

Some of the boys, especially the younger ones, were beaten up by older boys.

> "There is one child who doesn't like me and he beats me. He is a grown-up person; he is a youth. There is no reason at all. He finds me picking my own sugarcane, and he kicks me asking me why I eat a lot. Someone came and told him to stop beating the child [himself]. He then kicked me again on the abdomen and we wrestled each other." (Male, 10 years old, Jinja)

> "And when you get your little money, as you go to buy something to eat, you find one hooligan, he beats you up and takes away the money." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

In addition, some of them (12 out of 27) were engaged in substance abuse.

> "Now for the boys, you may find he is smoking marijuana, and nothing else, with his hope in only drugs, he also starts stealing people's things and when they get him, they beat him up." (Female, 14 years, Iganga)

5.8   Children interactions with service providers

5.8.1   NGO services

Several children (11 out of 50) mentioned nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that have been involved in helping the children on the streets. When they were reached by these organisations the children felt good, excited and loved. However the children explained that some of the support was not regular or reliable. The NGOs have been visiting them in the streets or taking them to a centre to provide services such as food, clothing, washing, medical care, education and recreation.

> "They could give us clothes and biscuits; they could give you one shirt." (Female, 12 years old, Iganga)

> "There is an organization which came when is called ANNPCAN, it came and gave us clothes, gave us food stuffs, told us that they are going to return to pick us that to give us help, but they didn't return." (Female, 14 years old, Iganga)

> "I feel good because they taught us how to behave. They teach us to always know God and to always respect our elders and siblings. So when one asks you to do for him something, you do it." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

> "Now, since I started going to SALVE, I no longer hustle much, it helps us. For the children who do not have money, you can go there and eat food." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

> "I went to Tigers Club after a dog had bitten me…They took me to Mulago Hospital… I was given medical attention and I got better and left." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

> "And most times that's where we pass to go every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to go there. It's called Children of Suubi. They teach us, we play soccer, we are also given something to eat, it takes just a day and we go to wash and we bath and take tea. And thereafter we go for counselling and again play soccer." (Male, 13 years old, Kampala)

> "Yes. May be we just go there [CRO] to eat 'posho'." (Male, 12 years old, Mbale)

The organizations that the children on the streets mentioned receiving services from were: CRO in Jinja and Mbale, ANPPCAN in Iganga, SALVE and Jinja Connections in Jinja. In Kampala children mentioned Kitende Africa Foundation, Children of Suubi, African Hearts and Tigers Club (Retrak Uganda).

Despite the help they received, some children felt that the "uncles" (the male employees of the organization) were mistreating them and hence opted to stop receiving their services.

> "They were the ones paying for my education. Yes, only fees and even the money wouldn't come on time. Because you would leave school after receiving abuses, your uncles are mistreating you which was the truth, it was very bad." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

Some of the children in Kampala did not like one of the centres because they were being chased away and, at times, detained.

> "They have ever taken me [there]. They have bad manners and they even detain people. They chase children from there. When the security guard sees you coming, he detains you." (Male, 14 years old, Kampala)

> "I was chased away. He [security guard] chased me and told me to go away. He told us to go because there was no food. So we told him that; today we have come to wash, but still he chased us." (Male, 11 years old, Kampala)

Also some children who had been assisted to return home came back to the streets because the conditions at home remained the same.

> "So when I came back the people [at the centre] asked me 'why have you come back?' then I said that nothing, but the situation they left me in is not good." (Male, 17 years old, Mbale)

On the other hand, some of the children had never received any help from NGOs. This was especially true in Iganga where only 2 out of 10 children had received services.

> "I have never got any support at all and I have never seen any organisation" (Male, 14 years old, Iganga)

5.8.2   Government services

The majority of the children interviewed (44) had never been to any government juvenile institution. Only 6 children, 3 girls and 3 boys from Kampala and Mbale, had been taken to a centre. However, all the children reported hearing about it from those who had been there, and they mentioned that those children had always been badly treated. Those who have been to a centre narrated some of their experiences:

> "They took us to [a centre], we spent there many years...They would teach us as if we are young children, learn 1, 2, 3, how to count. And we didn't want such." (Female, 17 years old, Mbale)

> "I was still there in [that centre], they don't feed well... They don't cook the food fully, they don't cook the 'posho' fully, there are weevils in the beans." (Female, 13 years old, Kampala)

They were also exposed to violence such as beating and were forced to do manual work such as digging. This even led some to escape from the centres.

> "Oh, because of the canes.... Even in the morning they beat you." (Male, 12 years old, Mbale)

> "They make them dig. That they make them dig the whole garden. When they come back tired, they are going to eat but they beat them before they eat." (Male 14 years, Mbale)

> "So when we went to dig, we escaped via a toilet for someone who had hired us to dig for him. We changed uniforms and left them in the toilet." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

5.9   Future choices of children on the streets

The children shared their dreams and ambitions in life. They hoped that they would be able to realise them at one point in their lifetime. Both boys and girls shared the same dream of going back to school and pursuing different careers in order to be good citizens. Many children (20), across all the locations, mentioned that they wanted to go back to school.

> "For me the next thing I want is to study." (Male, 14 years old, Jinja)

> "If I get someone who can pay everything for me I will go back to school". (Female, 16 years old, Mbale)

Most of the girls expressed their desire to go for technical training in tailoring and hair dressing. Some mentioned professional careers such as a lawyer or teacher. But it was clear that for some this felt out of their reach and not a concrete plan they could achieve.

> "Dreams, I had my dreams, but my dear, I was disappointed, I wanted to be a lawyer." (Female, 16 years old, Kampala)

> "Like I want to learn tailoring…. If not tailoring, then hair dressing…In future…If I had studied I wanted to become a teacher…If not being a teacher, at least if I could have nursery children in teaching." (Female, 17 years old, Mbale)

The boys shared ambitions of being mechanics and drivers, which may be due to their interactions with the garages while collecting scrap metal on the streets. They also expressed interest in professional jobs such as a pilot or bank manager. For many, they realised that they would need help to achieve these educational or professional goals.

> "When I get somebody to give me a support… I see that I can begin to study… when I have seen that I have studied very well… I expect some how to be a pilot." (Male, 14 years old Iganga)

> "When someone by God's grace, picks me from this streets and I start studying I want to be a bank manager." (Male, 13 years, Iganga)

> "Now when you support me, then there I will know that in future I will be well off." (Female, 17 years, Mbale)

Others wanted to be able to save their own money in order to help them fulfil their dreams.

> "If I save like thirty thousand shilling then I rent a house and live there, then get a job and also start up a business of my own." (Male, 14 years old, Mbale)

Some children expressed their desire to go back home, but again they realised that they needed help with this.

> "I said that anytime if someone comes out and say that he will transport me back home. Am ready to go. And another thing is that if that person can give me something I can start with, like a business." (Male, 17 years old, Kampala)

> "I am looking for money to go back to the village so that I see my mother. If someone can help me and I go back to my mother." (Female, 13 years old, Kampala)

6. Discussion

6.1   Number of children on the streets and their experiences on the streets

This study, the first of its kind to enumerate the population of children on the streets in Kampala, Jinja, Iganga and Mbale, used the dual system estimate method to provide insights into the size, characteristics and experiences of children on the streets in Uganda. It is estimated that, at the time of enumeration, there were 15,500 children on the streets, aged 7-17 years, across the 4 study locations: 3,800 living on the streets and 11,700 working on the streets.

Although categorisation of children on the streets is difficult, since children's engagement on the streets is fluid, this study found differences between children defined as living on the streets (children who sleep on the streets most nights of the week) and those defined as working on the streets (children who sleep in homes but work on the streets at least one day a week). Children living on the streets are on the streets both day and night. They sleep on the streets or in other public places most nights of the week, mainly sharing their sleeping places with friends. They have much weaker ties to their families, many of whom live far away. Less than 10% of children living on the streets are girls and very few children living on the streets are able to attend school, irrespective of their age or sex. In contrast children working on the streets are typically on the streets for all or part of the day and return to sleep in a home at night, often with family members. Many of these children still have strong ties with their family and are also attending school regularly, but they are likely to gradually stop going to school as they get older. Almost a third of children who work on the streets are girls.

Children on the streets across the four towns are involved in a variety of income generating activities. For those who live on the streets the most common activity is scavenging (42%), while those who work on the streets are mostly involved in selling goods or preparing goods to sell (56%). Other children reported being involved in begging and carrying loads. All of these activities are determined to be hazardous[63] and even more so, as most of these children are working without adult supervision but instead engage in these activities with other children. Section 8 of the Ugandan Children Act[64] prohibits employment or engagement of children in any activity that may be harmful or hazardous to the child's health. The Act also sets the minimum age of employment for a child as 16. It is clear that the majority of the 15,500 children estimated to be on the streets across the 4 locations are at risk in their daily activities.

This study also explored whether children were accompanied by family or other adults (defined as sleeping in the same place as a family member or other adult for children living on the streets or working alongside a family member or other adult for children working on the streets). It was found that most of the children across the four locations are unaccompanied: 94% of children who live on the streets are unaccompanied, as are 65% of those who work on the streets. The children perceive those who are accompanied to have an advantage over unaccompanied children due to the support, protection and care they may receive from older children or adults. However, it is also possible that some of these children who are working alongside adults may be in a situation of exploitation if they are not fully compensated for their work nor cared for adequately. Since many children have moved into their current locations some of these children may also be defined as trafficked since the Uganda Prevention of

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[63] Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, United States Department of Labor, 2015.
[64] The Children (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2015 (Uganda Parliament).

Trafficking in Persons Act states: "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall constitute "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in [an earlier section]."[65] [66]

Through the qualitative interviews children identified hunger, a lack of shelter and clothing as key challenges facing all children on the streets. In addition, girls highlighted that they face sexual abuse and lack of sanitary towels on the streets, whilst boys were more likely to report experiencing physical violence from other children, the police or the general public, as well as engaging in substance abuse. Many children mentioned that various NGOs play a crucial role in meeting some of their needs by providing services such as food, clothing, washing, medical care, education and recreation. But some found these services to be unreliable and in Iganga such services are largely unavailable.

Some children had also engaged with the government's juvenile institutions, with children living on the streets more likely to have been to one of the institutions, most commonly Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre. However, most children were afraid of these institutions and those who had been to them did not speak well of the services they received. The majority of children who had been to KNRC or Naguru Remand Home, both close to Kampala, had escaped from the institutions and were not assisted to reconnect with their family when they left, which is the mandate of the institutions.

6.2   Factors which influence children's engagement on the streets

By combining a qualitative study alongside the enumeration, this study has also been able to look at some of the factors which influence children's street engagement. Firstly, many children participating in the qualitative study mentioned poverty as a reason for turning to the streets. This was often linked to a pull factor for children moving to the streets of looking for work to provide for themselves and their families. Closely linked to this was family instability and violence which many children also mentioned as having a major role to play in pushing children into street life. In the qualitative study, children reported that they had been abandoned, mistreated, or faced abuse by parents, stepparents and other relatives, and this had forced them to look for a better life elsewhere. It was also found in the enumeration that although most children reported that both their parents are alive, children on the streets are more likely to be either single or double orphans compared with the national average. In addition although many children who are now living on the streets reported having previously lived with nuclear or extended family, only one fifth had previously lived with both parents, this compares with a national average of over 55% of children living with both parents. Uganda's Children Act, the just concluded National Strategic Program of Interventions for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and the current draft National Child Policy all acknowledge child's rights and seek to address vulnerability, including that rising from poverty and family instability. Yet it is clear that many families are still not getting the support they need to fully care for their children. Whilst progress may be being made, inequalities persist and these are pushing children into further vulnerable situations on the streets.

In addition, both the enumeration and the qualitative study revealed difficulties with access to education as another key factor in children's presence on the streets. Although the enumeration showed that the majority of children on the streets had attended school at some point in the past, in the qualitative interviews several children connected not being able to attend school as part of the reason for turning to the streets. According to the Education Act: "primary education shall be universal and compulsory for pupils aged 6 (six) years and above which shall last seven years."[67] Yet, despite this law bringing in Universal Primary Education and eliminating school fees for primary school students, the main reason

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[65] The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009, s3(3)

[66] This sections defines these means as "the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person." The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009, s3(1)

[67] The Education (Pre-Primary, Primary and Post-Primary) Act, 2008, s10(3)(a).

given for not attending school across all children on the streets was an inability to meet the cost of school, including paying fees imposed by schools and buying uniform and scholastic materials. Indeed, several children explained that they began working in order to acquire funds to complete their education. Therefore, it is clear that despite laws and policies which should ensure children in Uganda can access primary education it is clear that children and families are still finding the cost of education prohibitive and children are turning to the streets and undertaking harmful work in order to provide for their needs. It should also be noted that, even if the legislation were well resourced and enforced, since school is compulsory up to the age of 12 or 13, and the minimum age for employment of a child is 16, there is a gap of two years within which a child is no longer obligated to attend school and yet cannot legally work. [68] This study found that amongst children working on the streets there is a noticeable drop in school attendance around this age from two-thirds still attending at 12 years down to one-third attending by age 16 years. This is likely to reflect children finishing their primary education, since most children in this study are several years behind in their education, and are unable to continue into secondary school.

Children's movement to and engagement on the streets is driven by their situation at home and the appeal of better opportunities on the streets. Children reported that these movements to the streets are often facilitated by the friends and sometimes by relatives. Children spoke of meeting their friends coming from the streets and visiting home, who were often nicely dressed in new clothes and brought shopping for their family. This creates a false impression of real street life as it is only those who have succeeded that are able to return home in this way. Prevention programmes could help address these false impressions through community awareness raising, this could harness the power of peer influence in a positive way by having children tell their stories and act as peer educators.

It was also apparent from children's narratives of their journeys to the streets that taxi and lorry drivers help children by offering them lifts and some go to the extent of giving them money to use initially when they have newly arrived on the street. These drivers sympathise with the children they see stranded and begging for lifts. Though the drivers may have good intentions, programmes could be designed to sensitise them on the dangers of such actions and provide them with alternatives to refer children who are moving on their own to services that can help them.

The issue of child trafficking did not come up in children's descriptions of how they came to the streets. Those children spoken to described leaving home voluntarily due to unbearable push factors and the lure of earning money in town. However, it is clear that many children's experiences on the streets are exploitative and could constitute a trafficking situation, even if the children do not recognise this themselves. Further research should look into the issue of child trafficking with a methodology that is better suited to uncover how this may be happening.

6.3   Kampala

There are almost 2,600 children estimated to be living on the streets in Kampala and another 1,400 working on the streets. There are many more children living on the streets in Kampala compared with the other three towns, these children live further away from their families and have much weaker ties with them. The circumstances for those children working on the streets in Kampala are also quite different from those in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale. In Kampala children working on the streets, but living in homes, lead a life much more similar to their counterparts who are living on the streets, lacking parental supervision and mostly living and working with other children.

In contrast to the other three towns, the children on the streets in Kampala face a greater separation from their families, this is true of both children working and living on the streets. Kampala has the smallest proportion of children who reported that their family home is within the surrounding district

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[68] Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

(9%). Instead the children found in Kampala indicated they originally came from districts in all parts of the country. Kampala has the smallest share of children whose parents are still living within the current district and many were previously living with or currently consider their primary caregiver to be a non-relative. It therefore follows that most of the children, both those living and those working on the streets, reported that they sleep within Kampala town and that they share their accommodation or sleeping place with friends. While many of the children who live on the streets across the four towns do not visit their primary caregiver, this percentage is highest in Kampala (60%). The children working on the streets are also more likely not visit their primary caregiver compared with their counterparts in other locations. Interventions to assist these children will need to take into consideration that the children in Kampala have learnt to live independently, some for many years. Returning home to rural locations, some at very large distances from the capital, will be a challenge for many of them. Children's participation will be key in designing programmes that are appealing to them, as well as to their families. It will be necessary to offer supported independent living programmes for older children for whom returning home may not be their priority nor in their best interests.

Both children living and working on the streets in Kampala are out on the streets every day. Again for working children this pattern is different from the other three locations in this study. Greater engagement on the streets means that these children are more likely than children in the other study locations to be completely excluded from education. The majority (80%) of those who live on the streets do not currently attend school, as do almost three-quarters of the children working on the streets (this is similar to the children working on the streets in Jinja, but differs from Iganga and Mbale). These children who are out of school will need special education initiatives to ensure they are gaining basic skills and knowledge to help them as they progress in the job market.

6.4   Jinja, Mbale, Iganga

The number of children estimated to be living on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale is much smaller than in Kampala: this study estimates the population in Jinja, and Mbale to be 580. However, it is estimated that there are many more children working on the streets and returning home to sleep: 2,600 in Iganga, 3,200 in Jinja and 4,400 in Mbale. This is roughly 2% of each district's child population.[69] However when comparing the child population of the municipalities only with those children working on the streets who reported living within the towns, children working on the streets are equivalent to 4% of Jinja municipality's child population, 12% in Iganga, and 32% in Mbale. Having one third of children in Mbale town working on the streets should be of great concern to the Mbale local government.

Children working on the streets in these three towns mostly sleep at home with family (86%) within the town or surrounding district. Half of the working children in Mbale and Iganga and only a quarter in Jinja reported sleeping within the town itself. This could be due to the nature of Jinja as a tourist town with many locals living in the outskirts of the town. Many of the children who work on the streets consider both their parents or just their mother as their primary caregiver (51%) and majority of the children see this caregiver every day (70%) since they mostly sleep at home. About half of the children working on the streets in Jinja are not attending school at the moment, while in Iganga and Mbale it is closer to one third who are not attending. Those children who are attending school must combine this was one or more days work. Whilst combining work and school is not uncommon in Uganda (35% of 7-14 year olds do so nationally)[70] it is known to reduce time spent in school and to be a barrier to proceeding beyond primary level.

Children living on the streets, as with Kampala, have much less connection with their family. Fewer children who live on the streets have their parents within the district (21%), instead most of the children

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[69] Comparing 9-17 year olds only due to age bands given in the district census reports.
[70] UCW Project, Understanding children's work in Uganda: report on child labour, UCW Project Country Report, IPEC & UBOS, 2008.

who live on the streets reported sleeping in the same place as their friends (82%), since their parents are not close by. Many children living on the streets reported that they never visit their primary carer (41%). In addition, the majority of those who live on the streets do not currently attend school.

Unlike Kampala, there is an opportunity in Iganga, Jinja and Mable to implement prevention measures within these towns and their surrounding districts where most of the children working on the streets reside. Strengthening households and communities through parenting education, economic strengthening interventions and education support could be effective. Efforts to assist children in these three towns should also seek to make children's work for 16 and 17 year olds safer. In addition, there is a need to address the structural factors which are putting pressure on families and reducing their capacity to care effectively for their children. This could include high unemployment, low wages and lack of social protection. Further research is needed to identify the wider factors at play in these locations.

6.5   Girls and boys on the streets

Girls on the streets are far fewer in number, making up 20% of the street population: this is in line with findings from other studies in Uganda and around the world that indicate that there are generally fewer girls found on the streets.[71] Girls have also been on the streets generally for shorter periods of time compared with boys. It is also noticeable that in the younger age groups there are slightly more girls than boys on the streets, however this changes from around the age of 12 when the number of girls on the streets reduces. It is also clear that girls are more likely to be accompanied on the streets, with almost half of girls working on the streets doing so with family members or other adults, and 20% of girls living on the streets staying in the same place as family members or other adults.

Girls reported that they feel more vulnerable to sexual abuse on the streets and face specific health challenges especially due to lack of sanitary towels during their menstrual periods. It is perhaps these concerns, in regard to their safety and health as they go through puberty, which prompts girls to find a way off the streets as they age, either through living with friends or by finding work that includes accommodation, such as domestic work. Alternatively, it is possible that it is around this age that girls are pulled into commercial sex work and are therefore less visible on the streets. Further research is needed to explore these issues.

Boys make up the large majority of the street population and many stay on the streets for many years (one third of boys have been on the streets for 3 or more years), becoming young adults on the streets. Perhaps for these reasons alone they are seen as more of a threat and a "problem" and so face physical abuse and violence from the police and the general public. Younger boys are also beaten up by older boys on the streets and they are also more likely to engage in substance abuse. The physical and emotional toll of this abuse must be considered when developing interventions for boys. Given the nature of this study it is also likely that sexual abuse was under-reported amongst both boys and girls, so although boys did not mention sexual abuse this does not mean that they are not experiencing it. Again, further research is needed to explore these sensitive topics.

6.6   Karamojong on the streets

The Karamojong have been a distinctive part of the population on the streets in Uganda since 2006. It is noticeable that they make up the second largest ethnic group in each of the four study locations after the main local ethnic group. Overall the Karamojong number an estimated 3,600 children, aged 7-17 years, on the streets across the four locations. 36% of the Karamojong children met in this study were in Kampala, this equates to 1,300 children based on the overall estimate for Karamojong children on the streets. Estimates from 2006 suggested that there were 1,600 children from Karamoja just in Kampala,

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[71] HRW, "Where Do You Want Us to Go?"; ACPF, Violence against Children; Save the Children, Surviving the Streets: A census of street children in Delhi by the Institute for Human Development and Save the Children, Save the Children, 2011.

including both those who were sleeping on the streets and those who were working.[72] This was likely an under-estimate as it was purely based on a single count using observation. It would appear then that the overall number of Karamojong children on the streets has decreased over the last 10 years. This is likely due to Karamoja becoming more peaceful following disarmament and other programmes in the region,[73] as well as efforts to assist the street population in Kampala and other locations. Recent studies have shown that many Karamojong maintain close links with their rural homes when they are living in urban areas and that there is a lot of movement back and forth.[74] this may make it easier for some children to return home, especially if they are part of a strong extended family. These close links are also apparent in this study. In Kampala especially, the Karamojong children are often accompanied, meaning that they are living or working with their family (35% and 45% of Karamojong children living and working on the streets, respectively). A greater proportion of Karamojong children still consider their parents to be their primary caregiver compared with other children. In addition, 80% of Karamojong children on the streets return to a home to sleep at night, close to half with their parents or other relatives. However, it should be noted that it is likely that most of these families are living in very poor conditions. Previous studies have found that the accommodation rented by Karamojong families is overcrowded, unclean and with limited facilities.[75]

There is a much higher proportion of girls amongst the Karamojong on the streets compared with the rest of the street population. This has been highlighted in other studies as having a cultural reason, since boys frequently migrate within pastoral areas as livestock herders, whilst girls are more likely to look for domestic work for which they have been trained from an early age, and so their skills are in demand in both rural and urban places.[76] Girls are also seen to be more loyal and responsible, compared with boys, and less tightly connected to their families as they will leave and join other clans when they marry.[77] Also Karamojong children are used to unstable and transitory life style in their pastoral home, and have the capacity to make independent decisions, meaning they are likely to have acquired skills and strengths to deal with migration to and engagement with life on the streets. These factors may also explain why there are more young children on the streets amongst the Karamojong, compared with other groups on the streets.

Although the first large wave of migrants from Karamoja in 2006 were mainly widows and orphans, there no longer seems to be a high proportion of children from families where fathers have died amongst the Karamojong on the streets. This study found no difference in orphanhood between the Karamojong working on the streets compared with the other children working on the streets, although this level for children on the streets is above the national average. For children living on the streets close to 30% of Karamojong children only have their mother alive, whilst this is around 20% for other children on the streets. This again suggests that migration is no longer driven by violence in the region, which killed many men in the early 2000s.

Many children currently on the streets have always lived in their urban location, emphasising the long history of migration from Karamoja to the Kampala and other towns. Whilst others have moved directly from Karamoja, it seems unusual for children to move through other locations. Instead there is a clear pattern to migration from certain parts of Karamoja to different towns. Nearly all the Karamojong

[72] ASB, Rapid Situation Assessment Report.

[73] K Howe et al, "We now have relative peace": Changing Conflict Dynamics in Northern Karamoja, Uganda, Feinstein International Center, 2015.

[74] E Stites, J Burns & D Akabwai, "It's Better to Sweat than to Die" Rural-to-Urban Migration, Northern Karamoja, Uganda, Feinstein International Center, 2014.

[75] M Sundal, "Nowhere to Go: Karimojong Displacement and Forced Resettlement" Nomadic Peoples, vol 14, no 2, 2010, pp72-86, Gackle et al, Karamojong Street Children and Adults.

[76] Czuba, The Causes and Mechanisms.

[77] Czuba.

children on the streets in Kampala come from families originally from Napak district. This tallies with research conducted around 2006 when there was a mass movement out of Karamoja to Kampala following severe unrest in the region.[78] It was found then that many Karamjong who arrived in Kampala were from the Boroka ethnic group, who live in Napak District. This was due to an uneven disarmament process, beginning largely with the Boroka, which left them vulnerable to attacks.[79] It is clear that there is still a tie between Karamojong from Napak and Kampala, even though the region is now more peaceful.[80] There appears to be a similar link to Mbale with over half of the Karamojong children coming from Napak, whilst in Jinja children came from both Moroto (40%) and Napak (38%). It is likely that current out-migration is still following similar patterns as children and families move to places they have heard about and where they know they will find relatives to take them in. This again highlights the important links between Karamojong in urban centres with their relatives at home in the rural areas, through remittances, regular visits and phone calls.[81]

The situation in Iganga is slightly different. A study from 2007 noted that "the largest population of Karamojong outside Karamoja is in Iganga, where entire families have relocated, and have established themselves economically allowing for the rest of the families, and in some cases neighbours, to follow them."[82] Although this study found only a few Karamojong children on the streets in Iganga, what is striking is that they mostly come from families who now consider Iganga to be their home (62%).

The push factors for children coming from Karamoja appear to be very similar to other children. Poverty and family breakdown being the main reasons. A few children also mentioned the lack of food at home, which is likely to be more extreme in Karamoja than in other parts of the country due to the regular periods of drought and over-reliance on cattle herding.[83]

Life on the streets is in many ways very similar for the Karamojong children compared with the rest of the street population. They are engaged in similar work, often alongside their friends, and face the same struggles with finding enough to eat and not being able to go to school. It should be noted that whilst there is a stereotype of Karamojong children being beggars on the streets, this study found that only 16% of Karamojong children living on the streets and 8% of those working on the streets engage in begging as their main activity. This is marginally higher than the rest of the street population, but it is far from being the main economic activity for this group. Instead children are much more likely to be selling goods, scavenging and carrying loads. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is the younger children who are mostly involved in begging, often alongside their mothers. It is possible then that this study did not find a high rate of begging as only children aged 7 and older were included.

Very few children from Karamoja are combining their work with attending school. Over one third of Karamojong children on the streets have never been to school. The current rate of school attendance for children living on the streets who have begun their education is the same between the Karamojong and others, at less than 10% attending regularly. Amongst those working on the streets who have begun their education, over 60% of Karamojong children never currently attend school, compared with 40% of other children working on the streets. Other studies have suggested that although the Karamojong see access to education as an important benefit of life in town and wish for their children to attend, it is clear that children and families still face major obstacles to attending school. This study, in line with previous studies, has found this to be largely due to the financial costs associated with education.[84]

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[78] Sundal, "Nowhere to Go".
[79] Sundal.
[80] Howe et al, "We now have relative peace".
[81] Stites et al "It's Better to Sweat than to Die".
[82] ASB, Rapid Situation Assessment.
[83] Sundal "Nowhere to Go".
[84] Stites et al "It's Better to Sweat than to Die".

7. Key findings and recommendations

7.1   Policy recommendations

One of the main goals of this study was to provide information to inform policy in Uganda. This section reiterates the main findings of this study and sets out recommendations for how these findings can be used to inform policy implementation in Uganda. These recommendations focus on the National Child Policy, which is in a draft format at the time of writing, and the Street Children in Uganda Strategy, as published by MGLSD in 2008, as well as the Education Act and Child Labour Policy.

Key finding: 15,500 children, aged 7-17 years, living and/or working on the streets across the four study locations: Iganga, Jinja, Kampala and Mbale, who are engaged with the streets in complex and diverse ways and who are all experiencing violations of their rights as laid out in the UN CRC and Uganda Child Act.

Recommendations: The National Child Policy, which is currently in a draft format, is commended in general, but in order to specifically recognise the unique situation of children on the streets, it is recommended that:

- the results of this study are used to target interventions appropriately, given the different numbers of children on the streets in each location;
- early intervention strategies include provision of short-term transitional care for children living on the streets;
- prevention strategies are encouraged in the locations from where children on the streets are emanating, including the urban areas around the four study locations and the Karamojong region;
- family-child separation is specifically defined to include more than children in care, so that monitoring indicators also track children living on the streets and children living with non-family members;
- reference to 10,000 children on the streets is removed from the policy and other related documents as it cannot be substantiated; and
- further enumerations to cover the entire country are approved.

The current Street Children in Uganda Strategy is ten years old and not in line with the proposed National Child Policy, therefore it is recommended that the strategy is evaluated, reviewed and revised in order to guide work specific to children on the streets. A new strategy should be in line with the findings of this study and the draft National Child Policy, in particular it is recommended that:

- consideration is given to the needs of children on the streets in all towns and cities, both working and living on the streets and without over-emphasising the needs of Karamojong children;
- early intervention, prevention, family strengthening and alternative care are prioritised;
- street round-ups are avoided and the detention of children on the streets by the police and in juvenile centres be reviewed in favour of a greater focus on transitional care; and
- monitoring plans include on-the-street surveys and regular street enumerations.

In line with the UN CRC General Comment on children in street situations and with the principles of Uganda's draft National Child Policy and the Street Children in Uganda Strategy, responses to children on the streets must follow a rights-based approach which ensures all actions taken are in the child's best interest and allow children to fully participate in all matters affecting them. Since 15,500 children are estimated to be on the streets across all four study locations, emanating from families across the country, a well-coordinated approach across government sectors at national and sub-national level is required in order to ensure children and their families are referred to appropriate and quality social support services. This is highlighted in the draft National Child Policy and in the old Street Children in Uganda Strategy, both of which call for a whole-of-government approach with coordination bodies at the national and local government level and a strengthening of the social service workforce through addressing gaps, ongoing training needs and adequate resourcing.

The draft National Child Policy also calls for prevention and early intervention to be prioritised. However, it is unclear how children on the streets will be able to access early intervention support. Section 5.3 includes an action to "utilise evidence-based mechanisms" to identify children at-risk. It is therefore recommended that the results of this study are used to target interventions appropriately, given the different numbers of children on the streets in each location. Early intervention will require street outreach workers to be included within the social service workforce who are specifically trained to engage with children on the streets in appropriate and respectful ways. The National Child Policy prioritises the prevention of family-child separation, the strengthening of family care and the use of alternative family-based care, it is therefore recommended that the policy should also include a strategy to provide short-term transitional care for children living on the streets, as a stepping stone to reintegration with family or placement in alternative care. Given that this study found that children from the streets who are placed at the Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre (KNRC) were largely not aided when they left or escaped, and that children reported they were afraid of these centres, it is recommended that another centre be appointed as a transitional centre, where children can receive quality care in a manner which respects the rights and capacity of each child. Where KNRC or another appointed centre cannot provide appropriate reintegration support children should be referred to approved NGOs who are able to assist children and families in this process.

This study can also provide evidence to help inform the call to prioritise prevention interventions in regard to children on the streets. The promotion of positive parenting practices, provision of social protection programmes and promotion of population-level behaviour change to eliminate child labour (amongst other harmful practices) in section 5.3 are relevant to children on the streets. As this study has shown, poverty, family breakdown and abuse in the home are contributing factors to children turning to the streets to escape their situations and/or to look for work. It is therefore recommended that such interventions are encouraged in the locations where children on the streets are emanating from, this includes in particular the urban and rural areas within Jinja, Iganga and Mbale districts where many of the children come from and/or are still living, as well as the Karamojong region (see further specific recommendations on the Karamojong below).

In line with the UN CRC's General Comment on children in street situations and the commitment in the draft National Child Policy to strengthen information and monitoring systems, the government should develop a systematic approach to regularly collecting and sharing information about children on the streets across Uganda. Currently information systems rely on ad hoc reporting from service providers which cannot account for duplication amongst such a highly mobile group of children, or obtains information from household surveys which misses children who are not living within regular households. For instance, one of the indicators included as a key indicator in the draft National Child Policy under child protection is the "proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour" sourced from Uganda's Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) which is a household survey. This study has shown that over 3,000 children in the four study locations are living on the streets, they would therefore not be

included in the DHS. The same set of indicators includes a measure of children living in institutions, although no source is currently given, which presumably aims at gaining a sense of how many children have experienced child-family separation. By measuring separation in terms of children living in institutions only, will miss recording children living on the streets, as well as over 50% of children working on the streets in Kampala and 14% in the other locations who are living with non-family members. It is recommended therefore that the action point (in section 5.3) relating to reducing the incidences of children coming into and remaining in care, and other action points in the same section, are broadened to include all family-child separation; and that additional indicators are included to cover separation such as children living on the streets or children living with non-family members. The latter can be sourced from the DHS. In order to track numbers of children living on the streets it is recommended that the National Child Policy includes a commitment to undertaking regular street enumerations, such as the one in this study, across all the major towns in Uganda during the life of the policy. This study can form a baseline for the four locations covered, it is recommended that similar baseline studies are conducted in other major towns before the National Child Policy is reviewed in 2020. Follow-up studies could then be conducted at 5 year intervals, in 2025 and 2030. In line with this, it is recommended that reference to 10,000 children on the streets be removed the National Child Policy as this number cannot be substantiated.

If the National Child Policy is to live up to its guiding principle of inclusivity and non-discrimination it is important that the unique nature of children's lives on the streets, as highlighted in this study, is taken into consideration. Children living and/or working on the streets are indeed a group that "require additional or tailored support" (p20) so that they are not excluded. Once the National Child Policy is approved there will be a need to advocate across the Uganda government for an increase in budget allocations to ensure that the policy can be implemented fully to reach all children, including specialised support to marginalised and disadvantaged populations such as children on the streets.

Considering now the Street Children in Uganda Strategy from 2008, it is understood by the authors that a decision has not yet been taken on whether to review and revise this strategy or whether it should be incorporated into the National Child Policy. This study which estimates that there are 15,500 children living and/or working on the streets in just four towns in Uganda, therefore there are likely to be several tens of thousands of children across the country whose rights are being violated as they engage on the streets. This study also shows that their engagement on the streets is complex between locations and between groups of children. Every child has their own experiences and reasons for being on the streets. Therefore, it is recommended that the government should consider renewing the strategy, bringing it in line with the findings of this study. It is suggested that the Street Child Working Group should be reconstituted to help disseminate guidance, coordinate interventions and monitor performance in relation especially to children on the streets. This working group should oversee an evaluation of the strategy in order to decide on the best way forward.

As the strategy is reviewed it is important to keep in mind the findings of this study which highlight that there are several thousand children on the streets in all the four locations covered. The current strategy has an over-emphasis on children on the streets in Kampala and on Karamojong children. A new strategy should consider the needs of children living on the streets in other locations, as well as the 11,700 who are working on the streets. Whilst the Karamojong are a visible group on the streets they are not the majority and it is likely that the situation has changed considerably since the strategy was written in 2008. This study suggests that the number of children on the streets in Kampala has reduced over the past 10 years as the situation in Karamoja has stabilised and efforts have been made to assist the region. A new strategy should address the unique needs of children coming from Karamoja, and the families with whom many are still living, and should avoid further stigmatising this group through negative, inflammatory language.

As highlighted above, children on the street would benefit from the approach of draft National Child Policy which emphasises early intervention, alternative care and prevention of separation, and that the unique situation of children on the streets must be taken into consideration when planning these interventions and when considering how to monitor their implementation and impact. Strategies such as withdrawal and surveillance should be replaced with a more rights-based approach of street outreach and transitional care, and family strengthening and advocacy should be brought in line with the National Child Policy approach by including alternative care, parenting skills, and population-level behaviour change interventions.

In particular, it is strongly recommended that the new strategy bans street round-ups, called "withdrawal" in the current strategy, and the detention of children on the streets by the police. Detention of children against their wishes when no crime has been committed is not in line with a rights-based approach. The current strategy states that round-ups can target children who are working on the streets (part-time children). This study has shown that most of these children are living with family (86% in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale and 25% in Kampala) so that rounding them up and detaining them would lead to unnecessary family-child separation. This is counter to the overall approach of the new National Child Policy which seeks to place family first and to promote the prevention of family-child separation.

Similarly, as discussed above, the use of Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre must be reviewed. This is in line with the current strategy which actually proposed that a new facility be built. However, it is suggested that there should be more than one centre to serve the entire country. For instance, this study has shown that 50% children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale have parents living within that district, therefore these children should be assisted within those locations so that separation is limited and so that it is easier for staff at the centre to work with families to aid reintegration or provide alternative care.

A new strategy would provide an opportunity to ensure that a good national monitoring framework is established to track the implementation of services to benefit children on the streets and to understand the impact of interventions. A more detailed monitoring framework, than in the current strategy, is needed, including measureable indicators that are aligned with the National Child Policy and can feed into the monitoring system for that policy which in its current format is over-reliant on household surveys. The strategy could include the mandate to complement household surveys with on-the-street surveys to gather comparable information. A commitment to regular enumerations, as suggested above, would also provide snap shots of the street population and allow changes to be tracked over time.

Key finding: Children on the streets report that their family's inability to pay for school fees and other scholastic resources is a major push factor for them coming to the streets.

Recommendation: The Uganda Education Act provides for Universal Primary Education and schooling is compulsory up to the age of 12 or 13, however in order to ensure all children, including those on the streets, can and want to attend school there is a need to:

- adequately resource the education sector to deliver against the commitments in the Education Act to enable all children to attend primary school, regardless of their ability to pay for fees and other scholastic resources, including a clear action plan in the National Child Policy; and

- continue to build on efforts to address inequalities in education provision between the north-east and the rest of the country, to ensure that primary schooling is appropriate and accessible for all children, especially those in rural, pastoral communities; and that this is specifically monitored in the National Child Policy.

Whilst there have been improvements in enrolment in primary education across Uganda since the introduction of Universal Primary Education in 1997, many children are still dropping out during primary school. This study has shown that even amongst children on the streets many have been enrolled in school, but their families often cannot maintain them in school due to the fees imposed by school and related costs such as buying uniforms or books. Several children in this study reported that they came to work on the streets in order to gain the money to return to school. It is clear that access to education is a problem for many children and contributes to children ending up on the streets. Section 9 of the 2008 Education Act prohibits schools implementing UPE to levy charges for primary education and states that no student should be sent away from school for failure to pay any "voluntary contribution". Therefore, it is recommended that the government make greater efforts to enforce these laws and to reduce the need for schools to demand "voluntary contributions" by adequately resourcing UPE primary schools in order to remove the financial burden of education from families. The draft National Child Policy includes a key action (in section 5.2) to increase completion of education, however there is no concrete action specified to indicate how this increase will be achieved. It is recommended that the policy should include clearer actions on how access to education will be improved, including increases in funding from central government.

The results from this study also highlighted the inequalities in education access between children from Karamoja and the rest of the country. Studies have shown that the north-east of Uganda under-performs against education indicators on performance as well as provision of teachers, classrooms and resources.[85] The Education Act commits the government of Uganda to an equitable distribution of education institutions and, as already mentioned, the draft National Child Policy includes a guiding principle of inclusion and non-discrimination. Therefore, it is recommended that the National Child Policy includes a key action in section 5.2 to continue to address inequitable education provision in the north-east of Uganda and that the education indicators looking at enrolment and completion rates specifically call for disaggregation by region.

> **Key finding:** 80% of children living on the streets and 38% of children working on the streets are not attending school. These children are often 4 years behind in their education.
>
> **Recommendation:** In order to deliver on the goal in the draft National Child Policy to ensure that every child have access to education/educational programmes, irrespective of life circumstances or vulnerability, it is recommended that:
>
> - the government lead an initiative to develop a basic education curriculum which can be used with children who are outside of school, which is suitable for children who have missed several years of education, and which values the skills children have gained when living independently.

This study has shown that many children living and/or working on the streets have already missed a great deal of their primary education and are unlikely to progress into secondary education. They are often more than 4 years behind in their education and have spent a lot of time away from the structures of school life, often living and working independently without adult guidance. These children therefore will find it hard to return to primary school. It is recommended that the government lead local stakeholders in developing a basic education curriculum which is inclusive and flexible enough to address the needs of children who have fallen behind in their education and who have become used to their independence. These children have often gained practical skills from their work which need to be valued and reinforced through the provision of basic literacy and numeracy, as well as wider life skills. The

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[85] For example: Uwezo, Are Our Children Learning? Uwezo Uganda 6th Learning Assessment Report, Twaweza East Africa, 2016.

curriculum could be used in transitional centres run by both the government and NGOs with the aim of helping children transition away from street life and into a more safe and sustainable situation. To support this development, it is recommended that the draft National Child Policy include the phrase "family separation" in the relevant key actions in section 5.2 and that the development of a curriculum is mentioned. For instance, it could be included as: "Develop a basic education curriculum and guidance on delivery to ensure that every child has continuous access to basic education, irrespective of life circumstances including poverty, family separation, disability, early pregnancy or marriage." Or in the section on vocational training as: "Develop a basic education curriculum and guidance on delivery to ensure access to educational programmes that address the specific needs and challenges of young people in vulnerable situations, have experienced family separation and who are outside of school."

Key finding: 15,500 children are exposed to hazardous work on the streets, such as scavenging, carrying loads and selling goods, this is on a daily basis for children living on the streets as well as for 50% of children working on the streets.

Recommendation: There is need for a renewed commitment to end child labour in Uganda, especially if this is to be achieved by the ambitious goal of 2025 as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals. In line with the Child Labour Policy, it is recommended that:

- The elimination of the worst forms of child labour be given greater priority in the new National Child Policy with a commitment to creating a specific action plan;
- Population-level behaviour change efforts around child labour, as planned in the draft National Child Policy, must include raising awareness of the worst forms of child labour, child trafficking, and young people's right to work in conditions are not hazardous or exploitative;
- Greater effort be made to institutionalise child labour and anti-trafficking training amongst law enforcement and local authorities to better equipped them to prevent and identify trafficking, to ensure that child victims access appropriate care and protection and to prosecute perpetrators; and
- Monitoring of child labour includes children outside of households.

This study has shown that children on the streets are engaged in hazardous work, in line with the 2006 Child Labour Policy which recognises that work on the streets as harmful and often illicit, thus forming part of the 'worst forms of child labour' category. [86] This policy committed Uganda to elimination of such work as a matter of urgency. Whilst there is a reiteration of this commitment in the draft National Child Policy through the action point to "Develop and implement measures to prevent and withdraw children from the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) and to provide social support to victims of WFCL." in section 5.3, it is recommended that this action point be given more weight and urgency through the pledge to develop a specific action plan to meet the SDG target of elimination by 2025. It is recommended that this action plan include efforts to raise awareness amongst children and employers of what constitutes the worst forms of child labour and empowers local authorities to identify and respond appropriate to victims of child labour.

The recommendations above to strengthen the education system and provide wider access to quality basic education and skills training are also proven to be effective in the fight against child labour. But they must also be accompanied by efforts to extend social protection systems so that families do not have to rely on child labour, especially when they face the instability of a breakdown in their family structure, such as separation or death of parents. This study has shown that it is often the combination of poverty with family instability that can lead to children engaging on the streets. In addition, it will be important to ensure that the action points in the draft National Child Policy to increase and improve vocational training for youth should be accompanied by apprenticeship opportunities, job search training

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[86] MGLSD, National Child Labour Policy, 2006, p15.

and opportunities to encourage youth entrepreneurship. Care should be taken to ensure that such opportunities do not exclude children on the streets but should instead specifically target this vulnerable group, whilst recognising the unique skills and assets they bring from their streets experiences. Efforts to promote population-level behaviour change towards child labour (action in section 5.3 of draft National Child Policy) should include a focus on ensuring young people's rights at work, so their working conditions are not hazardous or exploitative.

In addition, this study raises concerns that some children working on the streets are victims of trafficking, especially those who are working with the supervision of an adult to whom they are no related (10% of children working on the streets). There is no doubt that the nature of these children's work is exploitative and that many children have travelled into urban locations to find such work. It is important that the government further institutionalises anti-trafficking training amongst law enforcement and front line professionals, so that they are better equipped to prevent and identify trafficking, to ensure that child victims access appropriate care and protection and to prosecute perpetrators. Public awareness of what constitutes trafficking, how to recognise it and how to respond should also be specifically included in the population-level behaviour change activities planned within the section 5.3 of draft National Child Policy.

As recommended above, it is important that monitoring of the National Child Policy and of the Child Labour Policy does not rely on household surveys only to establish the extent and nature of child labour in Uganda. Doing so will exclude children living on the streets who are particularly vulnerable to falling into hazardous and unsupervised work.

7.2   Practice recommendations

In addition to informing policy it is hoped that the findings of this study can help inform the delivery of services and interventions in Uganda, enabling both governmental and non-governmental practitioners to work together better to appropriately support children on the streets. This section reiterates the main findings of this study and sets out recommendations for how these findings can be used to inform services and support available to children on the streets in Uganda.

Key finding: An estimated 2,600 children, aged 7-17 years, are living on the streets in Kampala, many more than in the other locations. These children live with mainly other children, are further away from their families than children in the other locations and have much weaker ties with their families.

Recommendations: It is recommended that practitioners in Kampala follow a rights-based approach which makes temporary shelters, reintegration programmes and alternative care available to children living on the streets and provides family strengthening support to their families. These services should be guided by a roll out of the National Reintegration SOPs and coordinated by the MGLSD.

Given the large number of children on the streets in Kampala, it is recommended that practitioners working to support these children should coordinate efforts, under the guidance of the MGLSD, to support homeless children who are living full-time on the streets through the provision of temporary shelters and appropriate longer term care options. In line with the National Child Policy and Alternative Care Framework, children who are separated from their families and are living without adult supervision should be offered the chance to participate in reintegration programmes if they are able to return home, or foster care and support independent living for those in need of alternative care. The provision of these care options must follow a rights-based approach, where the child is respected as a rights holder and active agent in their own life. No decisions must be made without the child's full involvement. Reintegration programmes should follow the National Reintegration SOPs, adopted by the MGLSD, which should be widely disseminated alongside training for social workers.

This study has shown that children on the streets in Kampala come from many different parts of Uganda. Therefore, the planning of reintegration and alternative care programmes must take into account the need to work with children and families from all over the country. It will be important for local government Probation and Social Welfare Officers to assist in coordinating services, especially family strengthening and placement follow-up support which is best provided by social workers who are locally based, can respond quickly and understand the local context.

Given the findings of this study that poverty and inability to access education due to the cost are key push factors in children turning to the streets, it is recommended that family strengthening support includes an element of economic strengthening. Initial evidence from current projects in Uganda[87] suggest that savings groups and cash transfers can be effective in supporting such families.

> **Key finding:** An estimated 580 children, aged 7-17 years, living on the streets in both Jinja and Mbale, as well as around 100 in Iganga. Over 20% of these children have parents living within the same district with many coming from families in the surrounding districts.
>
> **Recommendations:** It is recommended that practitioners in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale follow a rights-based approach which makes temporary shelters, reintegration programmes and alternative care available to children living on the streets and provide intensive family strengthening support to their families through community-based social workers based in each district and the surrounding districts.

Over 1,200 homeless children also need supporting in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale. As per the recommendations for Kampala, these children need access to temporary shelters, reintegration and family-based alternative care, which must be offered with a rights-based approach, so that no child is forced to leave the streets but can fully participate in decisions about their future. To a greater degree than in Kampala, such services in these three locations will be able to focus more on the surrounding districts where many children come from. It is therefore recommended that agencies design their programmes to include intensive family strengthening (including economic strengthening) and follow-up support to reintegrating families and families providing alternative care. Community-based social workers, either part of the local government structure or employed by NGOs, would be best placed to offer this support. This should be coordinated by the local government Probation and Social Welfare Officers.

> **Key finding:** An estimated 11,700 children, aged 7-17 years, are working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja, Kampala and Mbale. In Iganga, Jinja and Mbale 86% of children working on the streets live with family and 50% have parents who live within the respective district. In Kampala 25% of children working on the streets live with family and 20% have parents who live within Kampala.
>
> **Recommendations:** It is recommended that practitioners target families of children involved in child labour with family strengthening support, including economic strengthening and evidence-based positive parenting education, and older children with basic education, skills and job search training. Available services should be mapped to ensure equitable access and good use of resources.

The majority of children working on the streets in Iganga, Jinja and Mbale and one quarter of children working on the streets Kampala are living with their family members. Therefore, it is recommended that government and NGOs work together to provide family strengthening support to families whose children are involved in child labour. Such support must be delivered in a manner that is suitable for the low

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[87] Projects implemented under the ASPIRES project implemented by ChildFund and AVSI and funded by the Displaced Orphans and Children's Fund, and a project implemented by Retrak funded by Comic Relief.

income urban and peri-urban environment and should include economic strengthening and positive parenting education. In addition, public education campaigns should also aim to raise awareness in these locations of the risks of and responses to child labour and of positive parenting approaches.

Given the findings of this study that family fragility is a major push factors for children turning to the streets, positive parenting education (for families and the general public) should address issues around care for children after the death or separation of parents and strategies to prevent and respond to domestic violence and violence against children. In line with recent findings it is important that positive parenting education is evidence based.[88] It is recommended that the government ensures that its recommended parenting curriculum be assessed and revised accordingly.

Since access to education has been shown in this study to be an important push factor also, assessments should be carried out in communities affected by child labour to understand the barriers to education, such as lack of accessible schools, poor quality teaching or lack of school materials. These assessments should inform the design of family strengthening support to ensure that families can overcome barriers and are able to support their children in school.

Older children working on the streets, over the age of 13, before which education is compulsory, should be targeted also with programmes to ensure they are entering the job market well equipped. Children who have not been able to finish primary school, or who have not gained basic literacy and numeracy, should be offered a chance to attend "catch-up" education sessions, along with vocational training, apprenticeship opportunities, job search training and entrepreneurship skills training.

Collaboration and mapping of services available in each location is recommended to ensure the best use of available resources, from both government and non-governmental agencies. Since children in Iganga had much less experience of interacting with service provides, agencies active in other locations may like to consider expanding into Iganga or providing capacity building support to agencies already based in Iganga.

> **Key finding:** Children reported that they were influenced by peers to turn to the streets and that taxi and lorry drivers were involved in offering them lifts and support as they travel.
>
> **Recommendations:** It is recommended that practitioners delivering behaviour change programmes should involve children and young people as peer educators, highlighting the dangers of life on the streets. Programmes should also target taxi and lorry drivers to equip them to prevent migration and connect children with early interventions.

The children participating in this study highlighted the role that their peers play in encouraging them to turn to the streets. They also highlighted that their expectations of street life or work were rarely met. Therefore, it is recommended that agencies implementing prevention programmes aimed at population-level behaviour change, should highlight the dangers of life and work on the streets and should involve peer educators, especially those who have returned from the streets, who can have a strong influence on other children's choices.

In addition, prevention programmes should also target lorry and taxi drivers to inform them of the dangers of life and work on the streets and equip them to aid the identification and prevention of child migration. This could be linked to agencies having a presence in taxi parks to ensure early interventions for new arrivals.

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[88] F Gardner, Parenting Interventions: How well do they transport from one country to another?, Innocenti Research Brief 2017-10, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, 2017.

> **Key finding:** Children reported differences in the experiences of girls and boys on the streets, with girls feeling more at risk of rape, sexual abuse and poor hygiene and boys reporting higher physical risk and drug abuse. Boys also remain on the streets for longer periods, often into young adulthood.
>
> **Recommendations:** It is recommended that practitioners ensure that interventions adequately address the sexual, physical and drug abuse girls and boys experience on the streets, especially addressing girls' reproductive and sexual health needs, including psychological counselling and rape response. Older children should be offered tailor-made "catch-up" education, vocational training, apprenticeship opportunities, job search training and entrepreneurship skills training.

Girls have reported, during this study, that they feel at great at risk of sexual abuse on the streets. Therefore it is recommended that early intervention programmes on the streets are designed to reach girls as soon as possible and that outreach and transitional care should adequately provide for girls' reproductive and sexual health needs, including psychological counselling and rape response. It is likely that both boys and girls unreported their experiences of sexual abuse on the streets due to the nature of this study's methodology and cultural and social attitudes. Therefore, although boys in this study did not report sexual abuse such services must also be able to be boys and extra efforts made to identify boys who have been sexually abused and to respond appropriately.

The boys who participated in this study suggested that they were more at risk of physical abuse and drug abuse on the streets than girls. Interventions designed to reach boys on the streets should ensure they address the psycho-social wellbeing of boys, including psychological counselling and addiction support. Older boys, who are likely to have been on the streets for several years and have missed out on primary education, should be given the chance to access "catch-up" education sessions which have been specifically designed for them and which value the skills they have gained on the streets. They are likely to also benefit from vocational training, apprenticeship opportunities, job search training and entrepreneurship skills training. Although there is a larger proportion of older boys on the streets, many girls are also remaining on the streets into their teenage years and continue to be at risk of sexual abuse and potentially moving into commercial sex work. These older girls would also benefit from tailor-made catch-up education and skills training and support in order to avoid or escape from commercial sex work in adulthood. It is important that such services recognise the lifestyles and levels of earning that young women involved in commercial sex work may be used to.[89]

> **Key finding:** Karamojong children are the second largest ethnic group on the streets in each location, totalling 3,600 children, aged 7 to 17 years, across all locations. Their street experiences are different to other groups. They have closer family and community ties, there is a higher proportion of girls and less access to education.
>
> **Recommendations:** It is recommended that practitioners adapt early interventions, reintegration and prevention programmes to meet the specific needs of the Karamojong children on the streets. This will include working with whole families, targeting specific hotspots, and using appropriate language and content for the Karamojong context.

Whilst the Karamojong children on the streets will benefit from all of the recommended interventions given above, it is important that any programmes specifically targeting Karamojong children should be tailored to their particular culture, experiences and needs. Early intervention strategies on the streets, especially in Kampala where the Karamojong make up a quarter of the street population, must incorporate Karamojong-speaking outreach and social workers who understand the culture and can be trained to work with this group. Karamojong children on the streets are much more likely to be

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[89] Haliu et al, Retrak research summary

accompanied by family members than other children, therefore, interventions will need to work with whole Karamojong families who have migrated together and not unintentionally cause family-child separation by only working with children. Special consideration should be given to ensure programmes are appropriate for Karamojong girls, who form a higher percentage than in the rest of the street population.

Prevention work should target specific hotspots within Karamoja, especially within the districts of Napak and Moroto which have been shown to be the main home locations of children on the streets. There appears to be a clear pattern to the migration of Karamojong children and families, perhaps following a pattern established in 2006 during the disarmament process. Whilst migration is no longer driven by violence in Karamoja it is likely that the inequalities that the region experiences, such as lack of food, poverty levels and access to education are push factors, as reported by children in this study are drivers of migration. Family strengthening interventions and behaviour change programmes which are used in other parts of the country will be appropriate to address these issues but they must be adapted so that they use appropriate language and include appropriate content for Karamojong communities. In addition, economic strengthening programmes for families in Karamoja will need to be designed for that specific context and culture, and support to enable children to access and remain in education must consider the constraints the Karamoja regions faces in terms of provision and quality of education.

7.3   Future research recommendations

It may be useful for the government and NGOs in Uganda to consider undertaking evaluations and further research in order to inform good practice and policy. This could include:

- Enumeration of children on the streets in the west and north of Uganda as soon as possible, in order to complement the findings in this study and before the review of the National Child Policy in 2020;

- Regular enumerations of children on the streets country-wide during the life of the National Child Policy, for instance at 5 year intervals in 2025 and 2030;

- Evaluation of interventions to ensure they are meeting the needs of the children on the streets and their families, especially interventions which are challenging or poorly evidenced, such as reintegration, alternative care, addiction support and positive parenting. Such evaluations should aim to understand the impact on children's wellbeing, health, care and development, participation, and experience of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect (as set out in the National Child Policy).

8. Annexes

Annex 1. Research participants and authors

Authors for the report were: Regina Mbugua, Peris Musitia, Joanna Wakia, David Whitford.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development provided oversight in the enumeration exercise and the following particularly officiated at the enumeration stakeholder meetings.

1.1.1. Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development officials

Name	Organisation	Location
Alule Micheal	MGLSD	Kampala
Kabogoza James	MGLSD	Kampala
Kato Arthur Freeman	MGLSD	Kampala
Kyateeka.F. Mondo	MGLSD	Kampala
Nakifamba Jackie	MGLSD	Kampala
Nyamahinge Esther	MGLSD	Kampala
Ogwang Jane Stella	MGLSD	Kampala
Pimer Sylvia	MGLSD	Kampala
Wasula Lydia	MGLSD	Kampala

The following officials from Uganda Bureau of Statistics provided technical support during the enumeration

1.1.2. Uganda Bureau of Statistics officials

Name	Organisation	Location
Apio Sharon	UBOS	Kampala
Ssuuna Luutu	UBOS	Kampala

The following people participated as supervisors, enumerators, interviewers and data entrants during this study.

1.1.3. Enumerators

Name	Organisation	Location
Ajilong Florence	Police	Iganga
Among Stella	Police	Iganga
Buwule Samuel Tabula	ANPPCAN	Iganga
Kamya Denis	ANPPCAN	Iganga
Kaudha Doreen	Iganga District	Iganga
Magoba Harriet	Iganga District	Iganga
Mulabe Nicholas	Iganga District	Iganga
Nabwire Mary Allen	Police	Iganga
Nsekera Keneth	HCH	Iganga
Simon Apedel	HCH	Iganga
Agunyo Alice	Jinja District	Jinja
Akajo Christine	GIASCO	Jinja
Akeem Aksanti Mweze	Kwagala Ministries	Jinja
Babirye Sharon	Jinja District	Jinja
Bogere Brenda	SALVE	Jinja
Byarugaba Simon	CRO	Jinja
Ibrahim Abdul-Hamed	Jinja Connections	Jinja
Kampi Esther	Jinja District	Jinja
Kitakule Ronald	GIASCO	Jinja
Malimu John	Jinja District	Jinja
Mashani Solomon	Jinja District	Jinja
Nakyejjwe Deborah	Jinja District	Jinja
Namukobe Sharon	Jinja District	Jinja
Namwano Noah	CRO	Jinja
Nankwanga Diana	Street Child	Jinja
Ndenga Godffrey	Jinja Connections	Jinja
Nekesa Vanessa	Jinja District	Jinja
Nekesa Winnie	Jinja District	Jinja
Otale Solomon	SALVE	Jinja
Samuel Woira	SALVE	Jinja

Name	Organisation	Location
Acam Immaculate	Retrak	Kampala
Akello Doreen	AMARI	Kampala
Arinanye Doreen Grace	Rescue Foundation for Children at Risk	Kampala
Baijinja Joseph	Abaana Ministries	Kampala
Charles Lwanga	Retrak	Kampala
Cissy Namatovu	MYDEL	Kampala
David Wafula	Retrak	Kampala
Doreen Birungi	Retrak	Kampala
Edward Mugisha	Retrak	Kampala
Elvis Lubowa	Retrak	Kampala
Evelyn Kakai	Rescue Foundation for Children at Risk	Kampala
Faisal A Nsubuga	KAYDA	Kampala
Francis Kisakye	TRACE UGANDA	Kampala
Fred Lyegaba	Retrak	Kampala
Galiwango John	AMARI	Kampala
Hudson Musuuza	Retrak	Kampala
Isaac Mukumbwa	Retrak	Kampala
Jackline Komugisha	Retrak	Kampala
Jackson Bogere	Police	Kampala
Juliana Nankabirwa	Retrak	Kampala
Juliet Mutesi	Retrak	Kampala
Kabanda Lidondo	MYDEL	Kampala
Kegan Juliet	AYDF	Kampala
Kibande Moses Daniel	AYDF	Kampala
Kimwise Joseph	SASCU	Kampala
Loyce Amoding	Retrak	Kampala
Martin Baliko Stuart	Amari	Kampala
Mary Tracy Nagayi	Retrak	Kampala
Mbuga Ronald	SASCU	Kampala
Mugabwa Nelson	TRACE	Kampala
Muhamdu Abdallah	Police	Kampala

Name	Organisation	Location
Mutebi Isa	KAYDA & UYDEL	Kampala
Nabankema Nashiba	KAYDA & UYDEL	Kampala
Nagudi Madina	Police	Kampala
Nakayiza Hellen	Abaana Ministries	Kampala
Namakula Ruth	SAFE	Kampala
Namara Benjamin	Police	Kampala
Namboowa Rita Birungi	KAYDA & UYDEL	Kampala
Nasanga Hadijja	AMARI	Kampala
Nassozi Teddy	KAYDA & UYDEL	Kampala
Nassuuna Hilda	AYDF	Kampala
Nawire Joan	Retrak	Kampala
Ngolobe Susan	Police	Kampala
Ochola James	TRACE	Kampala
Omodo victor	TRACE	Kampala
Otim James	Police	Kampala
Patrick Sande	Rescue Foundation for Children at Risk	Kampala
Richard Ombaga	Retrak	Kampala
Robert Ssemwogerere	Retrak	Kampala
Ronald Nsereko	Retrak	Kampala
Sadam Walugembe Othman	AMARI	Kampala
Sanyu Roberts	Rescue Foundation for Children at Risk	Kampala
Sarah Kwagala Kasozi	SAFE	Kampala
Sharon Balungi	AMARI	Kampala
Siraji Lule	AMARI	Kampala
Thadeo Miiro	Retrak	Kampala
Baker Mwanja	Mbale District	Mbale
Carlben Muwambwa	District	Mbale
Carol Okotel	CRO	Mbale
Caroline Areto	CRO	Mbale
David Mukhwana	CRO	Mbale
Dorothy Weteya	Mbale District	Mbale

Name	Organisation	Location
Emma Ogwang	CRO	Mbale
George Kooba	CRO	Mbale
Immaculate Nabifo	Mbale District	Mbale
Janet Mukama	CRO	Mbale
Janet Wanda	CRO	Mbale
Judith Namasaba	Mbale district	Mbale
Kana Kasaka	District	Mbale
Leah Wanda	CRO	Mbale
Martin Nandah Welishe	Mbale District	Mbale
Meresi Mutonyi	Mbale District (DSPSWO)	Mbale
Moses Kasawa	Mbale District	Mbale
Naomi Nambuya	CRO	Mbale
Nathan Wankwabubi	Mbale District	Mbale
Peter Wabire	CRO	Mbale
Richard Mutambuli	CRO	Mbale
Ruth Joan Mbeiza	CRO	Mbale
Sara Kauma	Police	Mbale
Sidrah Wambomba	CRO	Mbale

1.1.4. Qualitative interviewers

Name	Organisation	Location
Sarah Kizza	HCH	Iganga
Wambi Moses Stephen	FXB	Iganga
Ahimbisibwe Ruth	Jinja Connections	Jinja
Kyakuwa Fred	Kwagala Ministries	Jinja
Nasasira Phionah	Kwagala Ministries	Jinja
Amos Muyinza	Retrak	Kampala
Immaculate Nannyonga	Retrak	Kampala
Madinah Kakyama	Retrak	Kampala
Imelda Naluyange	AVSI	Kampala
Nakubulwa Victoria	Retrak	Kampala

Name	Organisation	Location
Judith Namasaba	Mbale District	Mbale
Leah Wanda	CRO	Mbale

1.1.5. Data entrants

Name	Organisation
Jacqueline Akello	UBOS (formerly)
Tim Joel	Retrak
Joy Aloyo	Retrak
Monic Matama	Retrak
Jimmy Kitooke	Retrak
Cherrie Agabalinda	Retrak
Sam Rutahindwa	AVSI

Annex 2: Quantitative interview tools
A2.1 Interview Form

Uganda enumeration of street-connected children - Interview Form

1. Enumerator individual code:	2. Form #:	3. Supervisor check: Y N
4. City: Kampala Jinja Mbale Iganga	5. Area ID #:	
6. Date:	7. Time: Morning Afternoon Evening	

Engage and greet a child, ask them about what they are doing, and who they are with. If they appear to be working, hanging out/idling or preparing to sleep on the streets then continue with the interview.

8. What is the child doing?   1) Working   2) Hanging out/idling   3) Preparing to sleep

Say to the child:

Thank you for talking with me, it's great to hear about your experiences, I'm really interested to know more about children who are living and working on the streets in Kampala/Jinja/Mbale/Iganga. We want to make sure that we're able to provide children like you with the support they need. Would you be willing to help us by answering a few questions about yourself and your life at the moment, it'll only take 10minutes?

We will be writing a report and presenting the information we gather to those who want to work with children in Uganda and internationally, to help them improve the support offered to children like you. Your name won't be used in any reports. Your name will not be shared with anyone else. It will only be used to aid the project calculations and then deleted from our records. Accepting to do this interview won't earn you any payment or reward. You are free to stop the interview at any point. If you don't want to participate or chose to stop the interview at any time this won't be held against you. If you have any concerns or complaints, you can talk to our Child Protection Coordinator.

Are you happy to participate in this interview? (Mark response below) *Thank you so much.*

9. Consent: 1) Yes 2) No	If yes, continue with questions below, If no, give estimate of age (12) and gender (14) and tell them about some of the organisations that are offering support and say goodbye

Please can you tell me a bit about yourself?

10. *What's your name?* (prompt for first name and last name – correct spelling of the name is important)
11. *Are there any other names which you call yourself or your friends call you?*
12. *How old are you?* (If the child doesn't know give an estimate) _____ (if the child is below 7yrs stop the interview, explain we are not interviewing children under 7yrs as we don't have permission, but that we will include her/him in the final total number of children. Thank the child for her/his time and record the child's details in the 'Under 7s Tally Sheet')
13. *What is your date of birth?* (note down any part)   Day   Month   Year
14. Sex: 1) Female   2) Male
15. *What is your ethnicity/tribe?*
16. *What is the name of your home village, where your family comes from?*
17. *And which district is that in?*
18. *What are your parents' names?* (prompt and start with First Name followed by Second Name and indicate any pet name) *Father's Name:* _____ *Mother's Name:* _____

19. *Which of your parents are alive?* (choose one) – if both parents are dead skip next question
1) Both alive 3) Mother only alive 2) Both dead 4) Father only alive
20. *In which district/country do(es) your parent(s) currently live?*

Great, thank you so much. I'd like to learn about more about your life on the streets, can I ask you a few more questions? Thank you.

In these sections ask the question openly and then allocate the child's response to one of the options, do not read out the answers. Only use "other" option if you are sure none of the previous options can be applied.

21. *What is your major activity on the streets?* (choose one, the one they engage in most)
1) Selling goods 5) Loitering 2) Carrying loads 6) Shoe shining 3) Scavenging 7) Washing cars 4) Begging 8) Other: _____
22. *For that activity* (as identified in 21*) who do you do it with?* (choose as many as apply)
1) Parents 3) Other family members 5) Other adult 2) Siblings 4) Other children 6) No one/on my own
23. *How long have you been on the streets?* (choose one)
1) Less than one month 5) 1-2 years 2) 1-2 months 6) 3-5 years 3) 3-6 months 7) More than 5 years 4) 7-11 months 8) Always (born on street)
24. *How often are you on the streets?* (choose one)
1) 1-3 days a week 3) Everyday 2) 4-6 days a week 4) Once in a while
25. *What kind of place do you sleep most of the time?* (choose one place, where they sleep the most – this is where they sleep most nights in a week or where they have been sleeping this past week)
1) Streets/public place 2) Home/house 3) Other
26. *Who sleeps in the same place as you?* (choose as many as apply)
1) Parents 4) Friends 2) Siblings 5) Other adult(s) who I travelled/work(ed) with 3) Other family members 6) Others
27. *Where is this place you sleep?* 1) In this town 2) Outside this town
28. *Have you always lived in Kampala/Jinja/Mbale/Iganga?* 1) Yes 2) No
29. If no to 28, *which district were you living immediately before coming to this town?*
30. *With whom were you living immediately before coming to this town?* (choose one)
1) Both parents 4) Mother and step-father 7) Other relative 2) Mother only 5) Father and step-mother 8) Non-relative 3) Father only 6) Grandmother and/or grandfather
31. *Who do you consider your current primary carer?* (choose one)
1) Both parents 4) Mother and step-father 7) Other relative 2) Mother only 5) Father and step-mother 8) Non-relative 3) Father only 6) Grandmother and/or grandfather

32. *How often do you go to your carer's home* (carer as identified in 31)? (choose one)

1) Every day	3) A few times a month	5) Never
2) Every week	4) A few times a year	

Thank you, can I ask you a few questions about school now?

33. *Have you ever gone to school?*   1) Yes   2) No (if no skip next 3 questions)

34. If yes to 33, *what is the last class you completed?* (choose one)

1) Pre-primary	4) Primary 3	7) Primary 6
2) Primary 1	5) Primary 4	8) Primary 7
3) Primary 2	6) Primary 5	9) Secondary

35. If yes to 33, *how often do you go to school at the moment?* (choose one)

1) Every day (5 days a week)	3) Once in a while
2) A few days a week	4) Never

36. If **not** 35(1), *what prevents you from going to school?*

1) Too busy working	3) Friends say it's not important	5) Don't know
2) Can't afford school fees, uniform, scholastic materials	4) Don't want to go	6) Other (specify): _____

Thank you, we're almost done now, I would like to ask a few questions about the centres you may have been to.

Please remember your answers are confidential and we won't share your name with anyone.

37. *Have you ever been to a government rehabilitation centre or remand home?*   1) Yes   2) No (if no skip next 3 questions)

38. If yes to 37, *how many times have you been into the centre?*

1) Once	3) Three times	5) Five times or more
2) Twice	4) Four times	

39. If yes to 37, *which centres have you been into?* (choose as many as apply)

1) Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre	3) Mbale Remand Home	5) Fort Portal Remand Home
2) Naguru Remand Home	4) Gulu Remand Home	6) Other

40. If yes to 37, *how did you leave that/those institution(s)?* (choose as many as apply)

1) Released by the institution on own (or with other children)
2) Released by institution and assisted to return home
3) Escaped or ran away from institution

Great, thank you so much. It's been really good to talk you! We'll be coming back in a few days to check we managed to talk to everyone. If you see our colleagues please do talk to them, they'll just check you've been included.

Can I tell you about some of the organisations that are offering support... Then say goodbye.

Complete the following based on your observations:

41. Did the child have any observable disability? (choose as many as apply)

1) Blind	3) Speech impairment	5) Other: *give details*
2) Deaf	4) Missing or weak limb	_____

42. If the child stopped the interview early, at what question was this_____

43. Please note down anything unusual about this interview and if you had to terminate it early for an emergency or other reason

Uganda enumeration of street-connected children – Qualitative Interview Guide

Date of Interview:		Archival Code:	
Interviewer's Name:		Location:	
Start Time:	End Time:	Duration:	

Informed consent

Greet the child and say:

Thank you for talking to us again, it's great to hear about your experiences, I'm really interested to know more about children who are living and working on the streets in Kampala/Jinja/Mbale/Iganga. We want to make sure that we're able to provide children like you with the support they need. Would you be willing to help us by answering a few questions about yourself, life journey onto the street and street experience at the moment, it'll only take 20-45min?

We will be writing a report and presenting the information we gather to those who want to work with children in Uganda and internationally, to help them improve the support offered to children like you. Your name won't be used in any reports. Your name will not be shared with anyone else. It will only be used to aid the project calculations and then deleted from our records. We will tape record our interview. The information will be kept confidential and only the research team will be able to listen to the recording. Accepting to do this interview you won't earn you any payment or reward. You are free to stop the interview at any point. If you don't want to participate or chose to stop the interview at any time this won't be held against you. If you have any concerns or complaints, you can talk to our Child Protection Coordinator.

Name:		Age:	Sex:
Original Home:		Duration on streets:	
Living with family: Yes No		Accompanied: Yes No	

Part I: Introduction/Background

1. Let us start by telling me more about yourself that is your name, home, family and education.
    a. What is your original home? / where did you leave before coming here
    b. b. What is the last class you have completed? If you are not in school, why?
    c. How long have you been living/working on the streets?

2. Have you been accompanied by any family member onto the street? If accompanied what are the privileges that you enjoy than the other children?

3. What are the experiences of accompanied/non-accompanied children?

Part II: Drawing of street involvement

4. I would like to understand more about your involvement in the streets, would you draw me a picture showing:
    a. showing how you become involved in the streets,
    b. showing where you come from,
    c. where on the streets you are involved and
    d. what other places that you may have passed through?
    e. show when street involvement happens and how often?

5. Could you draw something to show the people who were involved with you?

Part III: Discussion of drawing

Thank you for making that drawing, it's really helpful. I would like to hear some more about this involvement in the streets.

6. Could you tell me about the start of your street involvement?
   a. What influenced you? Was there a person or people who influenced you or helped you?
   b. Can you tell me about anyone who gave you money or other things that helped you get involved in the streets?
   c. How often has it happened?
   d. What did you hope would happen when this began? Has this been true?

7. Can you tell me more about this next part of your drawing?
   Repeat questions above as relevant for all part of the drawing

8. What have been your experience working/living on the streets? *Probe for girl's experiences and boy's experiences*

Part IV: Additional follow-up questions

If the child hasn't mentioned interaction with service providers, ask the following questions:

9. Can you tell me about any services you have received from organizations whilst you've been on the streets?
   a. What services did you get?
   b. Which organisation was it from?
   c. In what way did you feel it made a difference to you?

10. Have you ever been in a government centre like Kampiringisa or a remand home? Can you tell me about that?
    a. What services did you get?
    b. What made you leave the centre?
    c. What happened when you left?
    d. In what way did you feel it made a difference to you?

If the child hasn't mentioned much about their family, ask the following questions:

11. Can you tell me more about your family?
    a. How often do you see them?
    b. Where are they?
    c. Who do you speak to or visit?
    d. Do they know where you are?
    e. Do they expect you to contribute to family life?
    f. How does that make you feel?

Part V: Closing

Finish by asking:

12. So now that you've been on this journey you've told me about, what do you think will happen next?

13. What would you like to be in the future?

Thank the child for their time and for sharing their experiences.

Annex 3: Maps and Locations

A3.1 Maps showing the previous home locations of children living on the streets

Figure 44: Proportion of children living on streets who had lived elsewhere before, Kampala
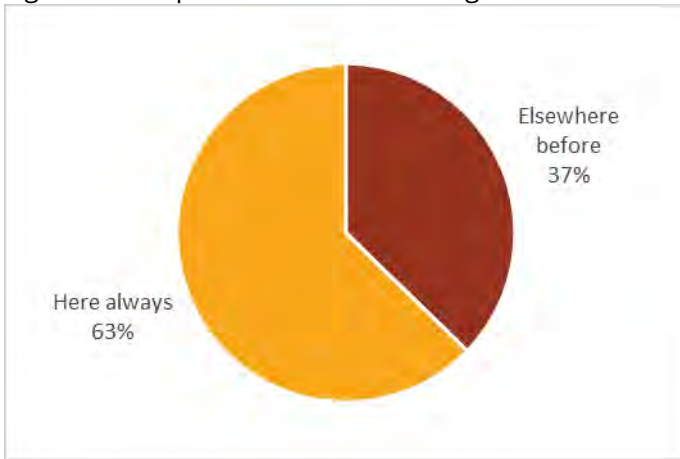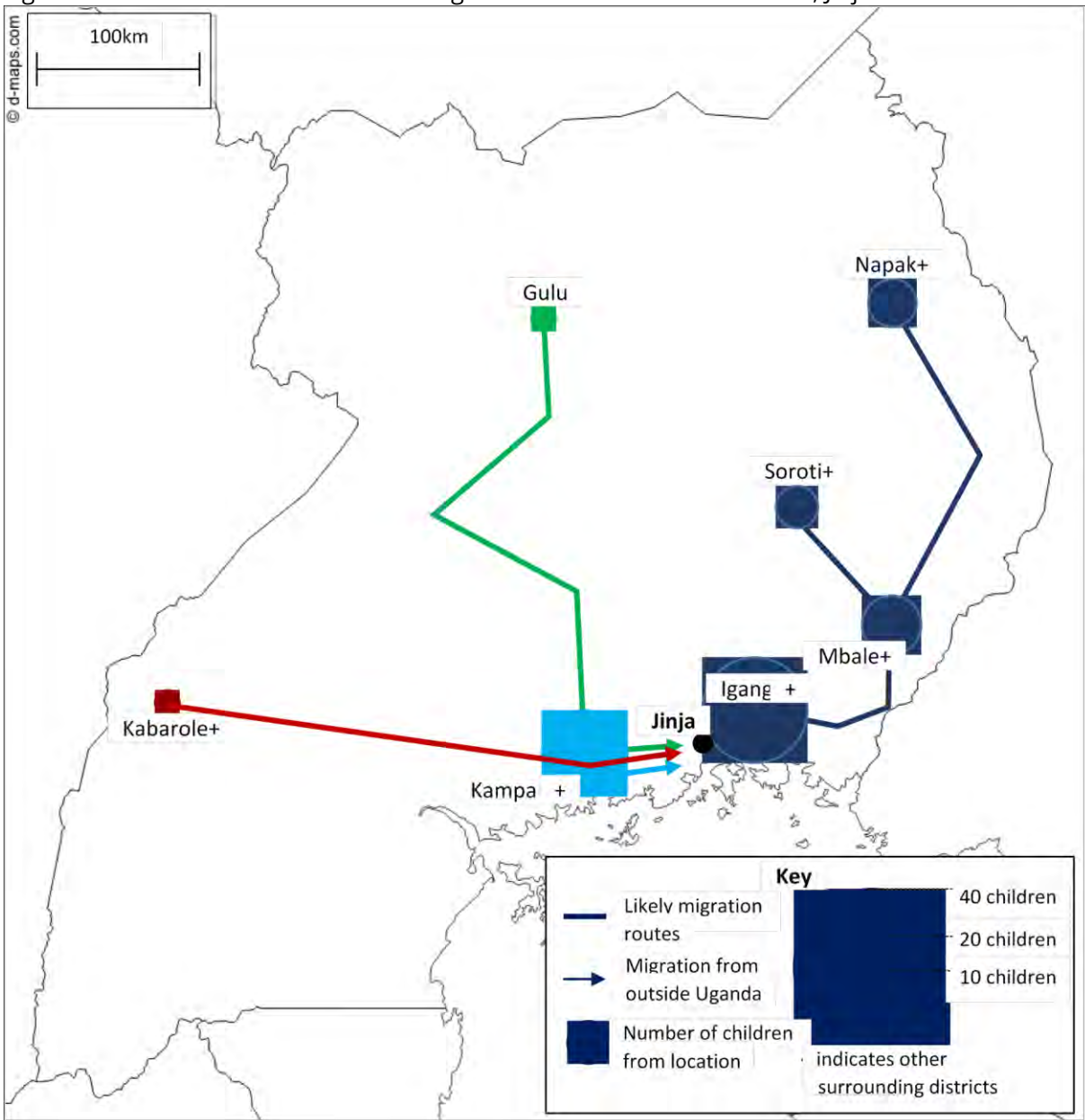

Figure 45: Locations where children living on the streets had lived before, Kampala

Figure 46: Proportion of children living on streets who had lived elsewhere before, Jinja

Figure 47: Locations where children living on the streets had lived before, Jinja

Figure 48: Proportion of children living on streets who had lived elsewhere before, Mbale
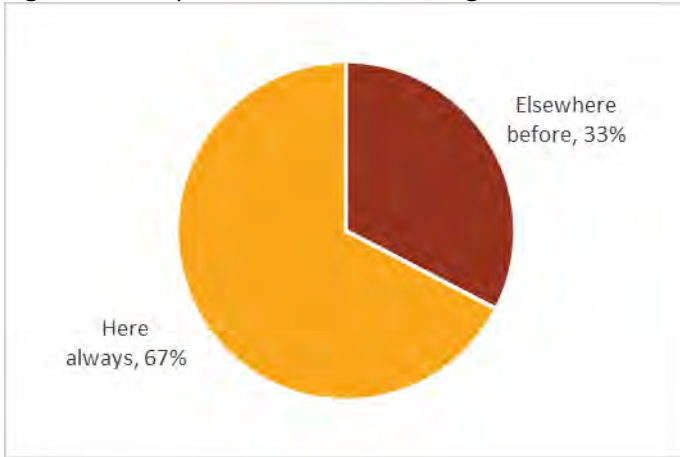

Figure 49: Locations where children living on the streets had lived before, Mbale
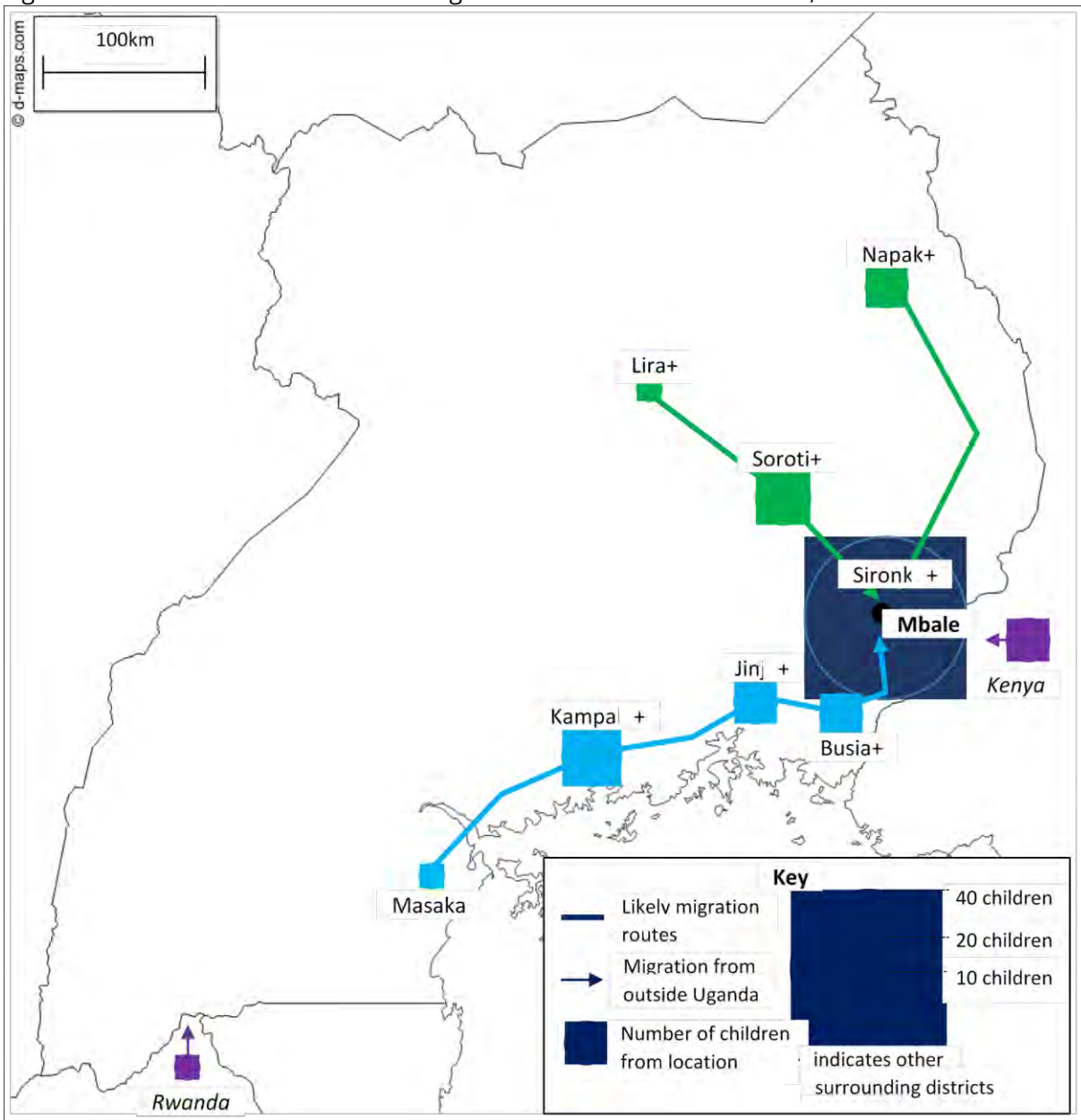
Figure 50: Proportion of children living on streets who had lived elsewhere before, Iganga
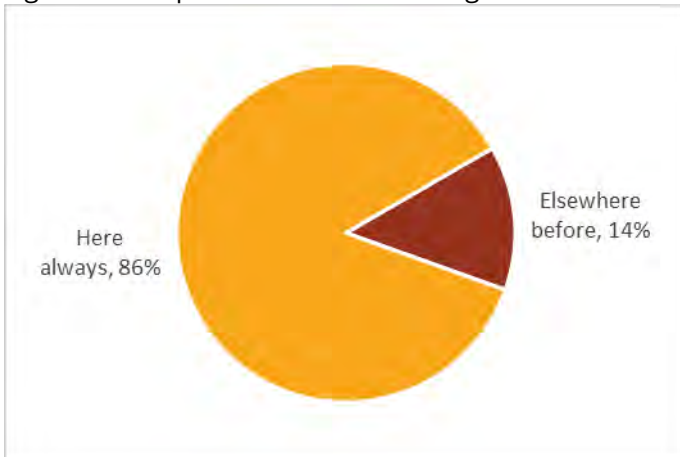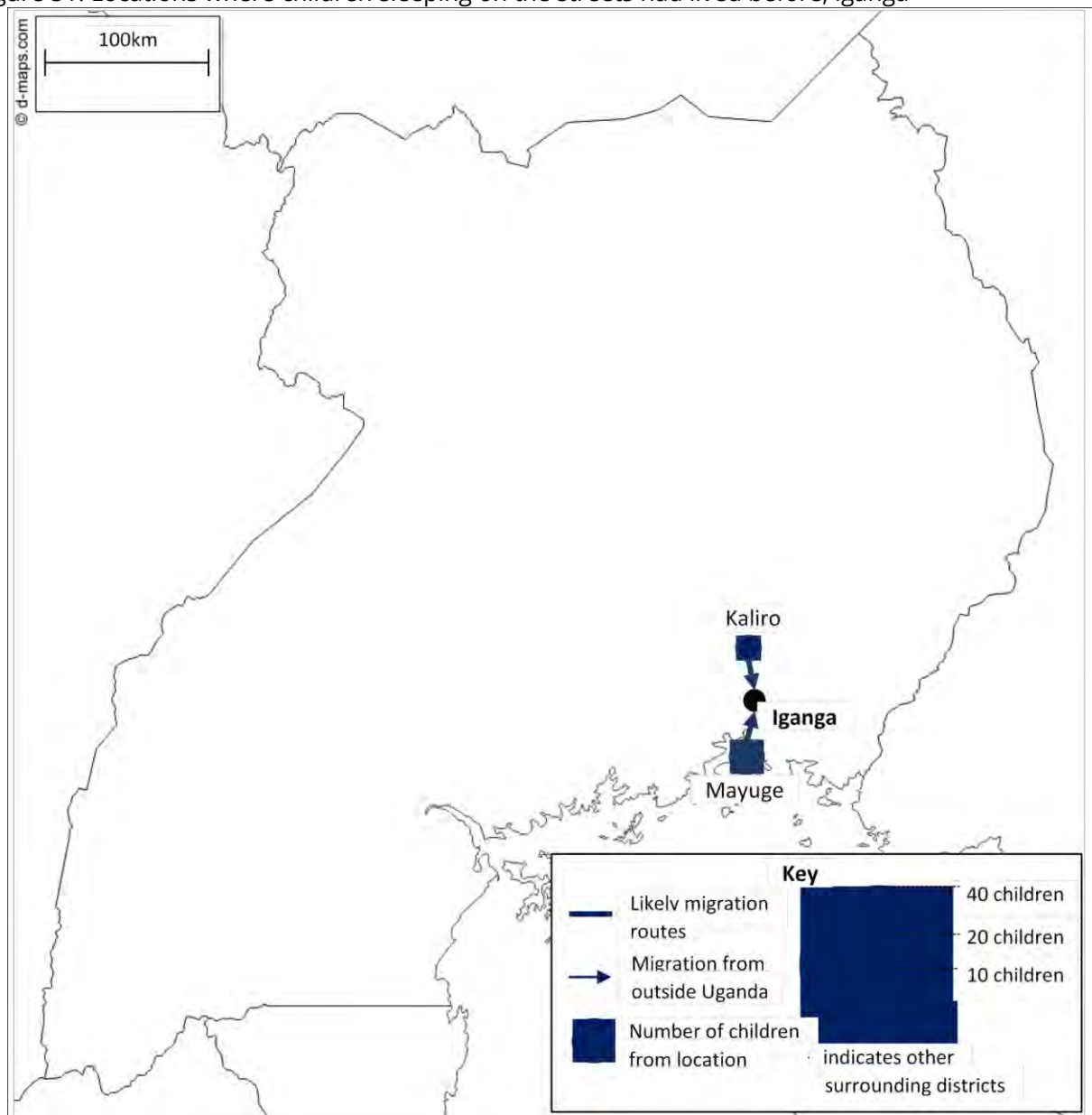

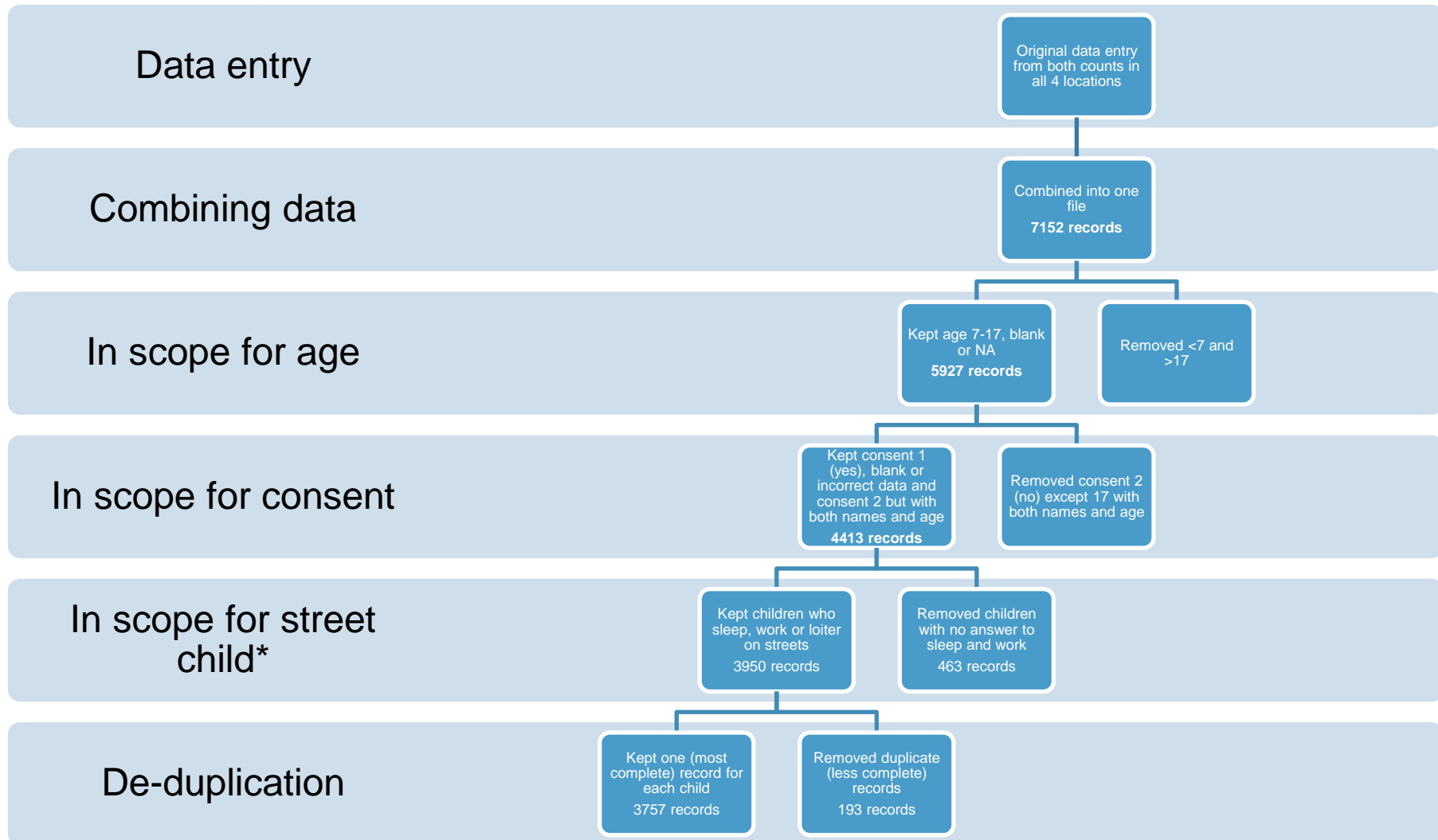Here always, 86%

Elsewhere before, 14%

Figure 51: Locations where children sleeping on the streets had lived before, Iganga

Annex 4: Population of children included in study

Initial flow of data – in scope decisions

Data entry

Original data entry from both counts in all 4 locations

Combining data

Combined into one file
7152 records

In scope for age

Kept age 7-17, blank or NA
5927 records

Removed <7 and >17

In scope for consent

Kept consent 1 (yes), blank or incorrect data and consent 2 but with both names and age
4413 records

Removed consent 2 (no) except 17 with both names and age

In scope for street child*

Kept children who sleep, work or loiter on streets
3950 records

Removed children with no answer to sleep and work
463 records

De-duplication

Kept one (most complete) record for each child
3757 records

Removed duplicate (less complete) records
193 records

* Final decision on street child definition:

Group 1 **street living and working** children:
- Said they slept on the streets or some other outside or public place (answer 1 to Q25) OR
- Said they sleep in a home (answer 2 or 3 to Q25) <u>and</u> said they work on the streets (answers 1,2,3,4,6,7, 8 to Q21 – includes those giving multiple answers)

Group 2 **at risk children** hanging out in the same location as group 1:
- Said they sleep in a home (answer 2 or 3 to Q25) <u>and</u> said main activity on the streets is playing, loitering etc (answer 5 to Q21)

Treatment of blanks
- if both Q25 is blank <u>and</u> Q21 is blank then we <u>exclude</u> them
- if Q25 is blank <u>but</u> Q21 has a work answer 1,2,3,4,6,7,8 we <u>include</u> them as workers
- if Q25 is blank <u>but</u> Q21 has a loitering answer 5 we <u>include</u> them as at risk
- if Q21 is blank <u>but</u> Q25 has a sleeping at home answer 2,3 we <u>exclude</u> them

Count by count de-duplication

	Iganga 1	Iganga 2	Jinja 1	Jinja 2	Kampala 1	Kampala 2	Mbale 1	Mbale 2	Total
Records	332	93	387	512	910	656	554	506	3950
Possible dup pairs	40	2	23	62	110	99	86	75	497
Confirmed dups	2	0	9	8	36	83	61	22	221
Records removed	2	0	9	8	32	75	48	19	193
Remaining records	330	93	378	504	878	581	506	487	3757