

A Generation Out of Place

THE CHRONIC URBAN EMERGENCY IN RIFT VALLEY KENYA

Report from Profiling Children Connected to the Streets in Rift Valley Province



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For further information about the study or to request the summary presentation of the findings, research tools, or a link to the participatory video created by Children Connected to the Streets in Nakuru, please email Sarah Hildrew, Child Protection Advisor, at: s.hildrew@scuk.or.ke

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Picture 1: Children living in IDP camp

Picture 2: Data collection with children on dump truck by SC researcher

Acronyms

SC	Save the Children
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
PEV	Post Election Violence
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
PWG	Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement
CCI	Charitable Children’s Institution
AAC	District Area Advisory Council
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
KSH	Kenyan Shillings

Project Summary

Project Name	Profiling of Children Connected to the Streets: Identifying durable solutions for IDP Children in the Rift Valley
Funder	UNICEF
Implementer	Save the Children, through two coordinators and 24 researchers
Partners	Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement, Government of Kenya, civil society organisations working with children in the Rift Valley Province
Process & Locations	Pilot study conducted in Eldoret, followed by study roll-out in Nakuru, Molo, Naivasha and Kitale
Duration	June-December 2011

Figure 1: Map of Kenya



Executive Summary

IN BRIEF

Comprehensive research was conducted in five Rift Valley towns to understand the link between emergencies and the perceived increase of children joining the streets. Findings show that emergencies such as Post Election Violence and drought have caused children to join the streets, many of whom remain there today. By far the biggest reason for children joining the streets is food insecurity caused by emergencies or chronic poverty. Responses have failed to resolve the continuing IDP crisis and fail to tackle the root causes that lead children to connect with the streets.

Recommendations advocate for an urgent, large-scale response to place children currently connected to the streets in durable situations such as family reintegration or other forms of care, in tandem with a multi-sectoral developmental approach that tackles and prevents the crisis at its root.

To achieve this, the Children’s Department, through strengthening its Child Protection Systems, must take primary leadership responsibility and develop a Rift Valley-wide strategy with relevant actors to tackle the issue of children connected to the streets in the province.

Rift Valley Province was the epicentre of the brutal violence which rocked Kenya after the 2007 elections and is currently experiencing the effects of Kenya’s chronic drought. Government departments and organisations working with children in the province requested this study to confirm and better understand the perceived increase in children joining the streets that they witnessed as a result of these events. The study was conducted by 24 researchers in five towns across the province (Eldoret, Kitale, Molo, Nakuru and Naivasha) between June and December 2011. The findings are based on interviews with 3138 children, of whom 2696 were directly connected with the streets.¹ Focus Group Discussions with children and parents and key informant interviews with a wide variety of individuals were also conducted.

Children sleeping, eating, begging or working in the streets of Rift Valley are symptoms of deep-rooted issues within Kenyan society. Poverty, tribal tension, unemployment or loss of livelihoods, family breakdown and corruption are all at the root of the reasons children leave home. The study revealed a number of factors directly influencing children’s transition to a life connected with the streets. Primarily, children join the streets because they are hungry. Food insecurity at home causes children to drop out of school and gravitate towards the streets to find food and earn money, in spite of the risks they face. Emergencies such as the Post

¹ The remaining 442 children were either children who were no longer connected to the streets; socialised with children who were connected to the streets; worked close to the streets; or did not clarify their status regarding the streets. These children were not included in the statistical analyses of this report.

Election Violence (PEV) and drought also cause children to join the streets, whether due to family separation, displacement or loss of livelihoods etc. Many internally displaced children remain connected to the streets long after the emergency is officially over: 37% of all children interviewed in 2011 were IDPs from PEV; including drought-related IDPs would further increase this figure. Other major reasons included the cost of primary education levied by schools - despite that it is officially free – physical and sexual abuse at home often perpetrated by family or extended family members, or the death of a caregiver.

Children in Kenya connect with the streets in markedly different ways, requiring different kinds of support. Some children come every day and go home at night, others sleep in the streets every day or part of the week, others come in the afternoons after school, only on weekends or on the days when there are food hand-outs. Some spend time in the bars, markets, video shops, or dumpsites. Children experience the streets differently depending on their sex, age, location, length of time connected with the streets or affiliation to a particular ‘base’ or gang. Such diversity needs to be recognized when planning responses with children, because individual and even group needs and wishes will be different.

Group cultures and identities in the streets are strong, providing forms of self-protection, social support and discipline that exacerbate certain risks such as drug abuse, mob violence and negative peer influence. However, they also provide a strong sense of family and self recognition for children sleeping in the streets. Members of the base help one another to escape the violent police round-ups, bail a child out of jail, pay hospital bills if a child is injured or sick, and even bury the child if he/she dies.

Current responses are often reactive, homogenous and small-scale, failing to recognize the diversity of needs and realities in the streets and ultimately failing to protect children. Emergency responses to PEV ended suddenly without proper transition strategies when funding ran out and many issues remain unaddressed, such as the resettlement of thousands of IDPs. Leadership on the issue of children connected to the streets remains weak, with multiple government departments and actors involved² but no common strategy and no single department demonstrating primary responsibility. However, opportunities abound in tackling the crisis due to its urban nature, particularly the availability of basic services and social safety nets: these must be made more accessible to children. Furthermore, support needs to be given to the communities that children originate from (sending locations) for prevention and sustainable reintegration. Indeed, with the right kind of support to children and their families, many children can and want to return home: rapid, appropriate reunification can potentially provide durable situations to thousands of children currently on the streets.

The findings were shared with a number of government and non-government actors and children who outlined key recommendations to tackle the crisis. These recommendations are a first step in developing location-specific strategies for street children, acknowledging the unique needs and context of children connected to the streets in districts throughout Rift Valley.

The recommendations fall broadly into two **concurrent** streams: conduct an immediate **emergency child protection response** to remove children from the streets and place them into sustainable family/care situations, alongside coordinating a **multi-sectoral developmental thrust** to eradicate the issue of children connected to the streets, ensuring their basic needs such as education and food security are met. This should be guided by an overarching **strategy, led by the Children’s Department with strong child protection systems.**

1. Develop National & Provincial Strategies to guide best practice and coordination among all actors

- Ensure integrated and context-specific action plans, guiding prevention and responses

2. The Children’s Department must take ultimate responsibility

- Strengthen **Child Protection Systems.**
- **Increase financial and human capacity** in the Children’s Department, alongside advocating for financial transparency of all actors in expenditure related to children’s issues.
- Improved **child follow-up and monitoring** of care situations once children are placed.

3. The Children’s Department to rapidly scale up protection measures to meet the urgent needs of children connected to the streets

- Intensify **legal registration and individualised case management** of all children connected to the streets.
- Transition all children currently living on the streets into durable situations through tracing, **family reintegration** or into **alternative care**, mobilizing ongoing support for children and their families.
- **Expand alternative care options** including alternative family-based care and independent or family-linked living for youth.
- Deploy an **outreach network of street educators** to engage, identify and refer children through street-based activities.
- Develop comprehensive **transition & rehabilitation centres** and services including preparation for reintegration into education and the home.

4. Long-term strategies should use multi-sectoral responses targeting the root causes that lead children to join the streets, recognising the essential role of education, livelihoods, health, food security and emergency preparedness to eradicate the crisis.

- **Resolve the continuing IDP crisis** as a matter of urgency and **prepare for emergencies** in ways that prevent child separation, food insecurity and domestic abuse etc.
- **Enforce free education** and the zero tuition fees policies.
- **Support families and youth to be self-sufficient**, empowering them to cope with emergencies, through skills training, cash transfer and livelihoods support. **Food insecurity in Rift Valley needs further investigation.**
- Mobilise resources to **prevent children joining** the streets, targeting geographical sending locations and key reasons that pushed children from home.

² Such as the Ministries of Gender, Children & Social Development; Local Government; Justice; Education; Youth & Sports; Health; Special Programmes; and Police among others

I. Introduction and background



Children near a bus station

IN BRIEF

- Terminology chosen: 'children (anyone under 18) connected to the streets.'
- In spite of existing legislation, protection of such children remains rudimentary.
- Rift Valley Province was worst affected by Kenya's Post-Election Violence and continues to be affected by drought, allegedly causing displaced or separated children to join the streets: stakeholders needed concrete data to prove/disprove this.
- This study aims to identify durable solutions for urban IDP children in Rift Valley Province.
- The five towns chosen for the study were Eldoret, Nakuru, Naivasha, Molo and Kitale, based on their position, visible street presence, and history during PEV.

I.1 Defining Children Connected to the Streets

Although children living and working on the streets has a long history, our understanding of effective ways to protect them remains rudimentary in both policy and practice. UNICEF has estimated that there are up to 100 million 'street children' worldwide, although this figure has been contested as overinflated.³ According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which Kenya's Children's Act has domesticated, a child is anyone below the age of 18.⁴ While the concept of childhood in the streets and in Kenyan society in general is often not so clear-cut, for the purposes of this study this definition will be used.

The terminology of children connected to the streets is even more contested, producing a plethora of terms including 'street-living', 'street-working', children 'of the streets', 'in the streets' and 'independent child migrant' among others. Recent literature argues that such children do not form a homogenous mass that can be grouped together. It would be better to understand them as "children for whom the street is a reference point and has a central role in their lives" or even, "young people considered by the public to be out of place".⁵ "Chokora", Kenya's derogatory term for 'street children' conjures up images of glue-sniffing, dirty beggars among Kenyans and is an association that children do not like. In this report the term 'children connected to the street' is used, in recognition of the problematic and limiting nature of the term 'street children' but also the unwieldy alternatives proposed. The research teams understood this definition to include a broad range of children who connected with the streets to work, sleep, scavenge, beg and socialise either full time, during certain times of the day or night, on certain days, or on the peripheries of the street such as in the markets, bars and video shops. It also included children whose families were connected with the streets and child parents or those who cared for other children.

³ Consortium for Street Children (2010) *Street Children - A Mapping & Gapping Review of the Literature 2000-2010* www.streetchildren.org.uk/uploads/publications/Street_Children_Mapping_Gapping_Literature_Review_FINAL_VERSION_-_February_2011.pdf

⁴ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm (accessed 06.01.2012)

⁵ Consortium for Street Children (2010) *Street Children - A Mapping & Gapping Review of the Literature 2000-2010*

Section 119 of Kenya's Children's Act 2001 recognises and has provision for children in such circumstances as 'in need of care and protection'.⁶ Despite improvements globally in child protection legislation and systems established to fulfil children's basic rights, such children remain some of the most vulnerable, ostracized and discriminated in society.

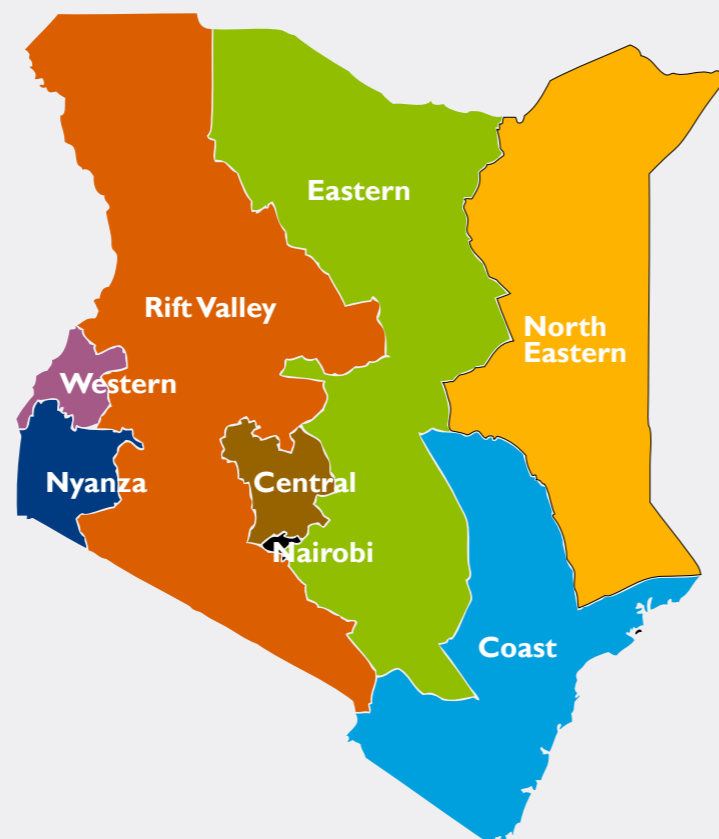
1.2 Background on the Rift Valley displacement

One of the most painful chapters in Kenya's history, which has put children at great risk of exploitation, abuse, violence and neglect, has been the brutal recurrence of violence in the wake of every election since 1992, with Rift Valley at its epicentre.⁷ Children are rarely adequately recognised in policies or responses to such crises; all the more shocking when we know that globally, children make up the majority of affected people in humanitarian crises.⁸

Recent efforts have been made to find durable solutions that strategically prevent and respond to IDP crises in Kenya, particularly through the adoption of an IDP Policy that is currently being debated in the Kenyan Parliament.⁹ However, as this study shows, these solutions have not been fully implemented, and the impacts on children are yet to be felt.

The most recent 2007 election continued this cycle of violence. In early 2008, Rift Valley Province was the epicentre of brutal violence that followed the announcement of parliamentary and presidential election results. Approximately 1300 people lost their lives during the wide-scale beating, killing, burning of homes, and destruction of livelihoods that forced 650,000 people to flee their homes.¹⁰ Children witnessed firsthand the violence and killing; some lost their parents, others became separated from family during displacement, and others settled in the IDP camps that sprang up across the region.

Figure 2: Map of Kenya's Provinces



By 2011, some of the camps for the internally displaced (IDPs – See Figure 3) had been disbanded and many people either tried to integrate into new urban fabrics and slums or returned to rebuild their homes despite continued fears of insecurity. Some were supported by resettlement programmes or compensation, though this limited support has not focused on the specific needs of children. Today, many IDP camps remain, where families survive with little or no humanitarian support for their basic needs, in the same paper, plastic and tents issued after the crisis, with little prospect of regaining their livelihoods or meeting children's basic needs for education, food, shelter, health, play and protection from harm.

Figure 3:
DEFINITION OF AN IDP¹¹

"Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border."

1.3 Study rationale

Understanding the relationship between emergencies and children connected to the streets

It is commonly understood that children's vulnerability increases when faced with emergencies, which often lead to displacement.¹² Displacement can cause separation, exploitation, or the adoption of harmful coping strategies by children and families in order to survive. It is also commonly believed that ensuring children's protection from violence, neglect, exploitation and abuse is most effective when the child is in family-based care, institutionalization being the last and least desirable option. A child who joins the streets as a survival strategy during crisis is exposed to high risks partly because this protection system has broken down.

In 2010 and 2011, Government officials and practitioners from the Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement (PWG) in Rift Valley highlighted concerns that there has been an **increase in the number of children connected to the streets due to displacement caused by PEV and chronic drought**. Furthermore, it appeared that responses to the humanitarian crisis which spilled into the streets have been inadequate. Key areas for ensuring durable solutions for IDPs according to Kenya's draft IDP Policy include: sustainable return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in Kenya, safety and security, access to services, documentation, employment and restoration of land and property, family reunification, compensation, justice, peace building and a voice in public affairs.¹³

⁶ Representing Children Worldwide – Kenya page www.law.yale.edu/rcw/rcw/jurisdictions/afe/kenya/frontpage.htm (accessed 16.01.2012)

⁷ UNDP & OHCHR (2011) Situational Analysis Report on Necessary Conditions for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement, Reconciliation and Restoration of Human Dignity of Internally Displaced People, Kenya

⁸ The International Save the Children Alliance (2007) *Child Protection in Emergencies – Priorities, Principles & Practices*

⁹ Humanitarian Policy Group Working Paper (2011) *Sanctuary in the City? Urban Displacement and Vulnerability in Nairobi*

¹⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Summary Profile (2010) *Kenya - Speedy reform needed to deal with past injustices and prevent future displacement*

¹¹ The UNHCR Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement - <http://www.unhcr.org/43ce1cff2.html>

¹² The International Save the Children Alliance (2007) *Child Protection in Emergencies – Priorities, Principles & Practices*

¹³ Office of the President, Ministry of State for Special Programmes (2010) *National Policy on the prevention of internal displacement and the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons in Kenya - Final consolidated draft* (24 March 2010)

Prior to this study, there was little concrete data to endorse the perceived increase in children connected to the streets due to PEV, which is problematic for any advocacy on street-related IDP issues, response planning, or monitoring of future impact. In early 2011, following the request by the PWG and government departments, UNICEF offered to fund a study to fill this important gap in current understandings of the situation of children connected to the streets in the region, particularly in relation to current numbers, the impact of emergencies and displacement on children, and the current ability of duty-bearers to respond.

UNICEF, PWG and Area Advisory Councils in the region endorsed the collection of primary data in the major urban centres by Save the Children, in collaboration with local organisations and the Department of Children’s Services, in order to provide sorely-needed disaggregated data to people and organisations at the operational and policy level, as well as to improve preparedness, prevention and response measures that protect children and IDPs during emergencies (See Figure 4). This was particularly pertinent, given that the next round of elections was at the time scheduled for 2012.

However, during data collection it became clear that it was not possible to understand the situation of IDP children in isolation of other children connected to the streets. Therefore the scope of the study was broadened to include these. In the long term the study aims to:

- Catalyse the development of a national strategy on children connected to the streets as well as the systematic registration of children.
- Promote recognition of the multi-sectoral needs involved.
- Ensure that duty-bearers consider the durable solutions described in the Draft National IDP Policy through the lens of separated and unaccompanied children and their caregivers.

Finally, it aims to promote more regular information-sharing regarding flows of children connected to the streets and children on the move in Kenya, ensuring adaptation of programming and emergency preparedness measures.

Figure 4:
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

GOAL: To identify durable solutions for urban IDP children in Rift Valley Province (specifically Molo, Kitale, Naivasha, Nakuru and Eldoret) and enhance emergency preparedness planning for vulnerable children ahead of the 2012 elections.

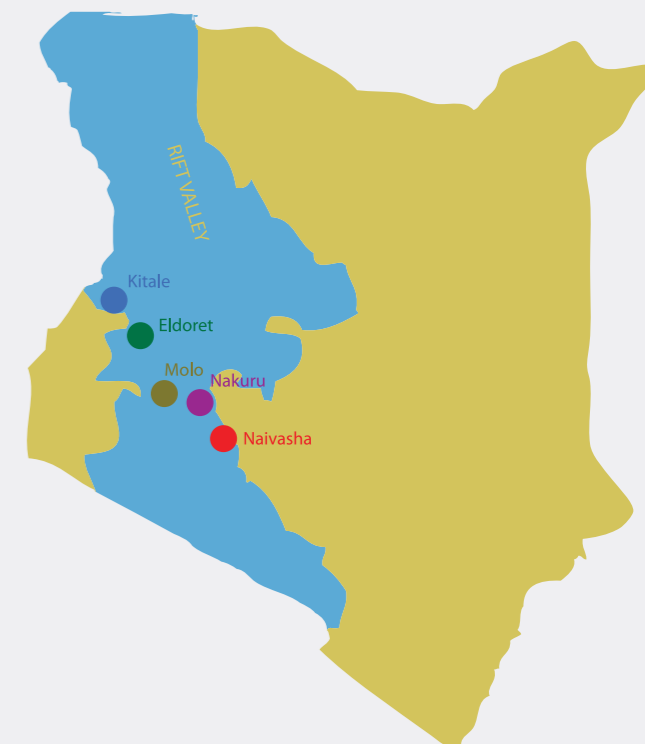
OBJECTIVES: To determine the proportion of children connected to the streets profiled who have IDP status with a view towards prevention and response interventions
To determine the extent to which internal displacement has contributed to their status as children connected to the streets

1.4 Selection of locations

The most useful understandings and estimates of children connected to the street are context-specific.¹⁴ For this reason, the study unpacks the specific reality of children in five urban centers of the Rift Valley. The locations were selected because of their intense experience during PEV and the perceptibly high numbers of children connected to the streets in these towns (Figure 5). Rift Valley is the most populated of all provinces in Kenya, with just over 10 million inhabitants.¹⁵

Naivasha: Data collection covered Naivasha, Kongoni, Maai-Mahiu, Naivasha Central. Naivasha has 156,679 children between 0-15 and approximately 172,800 children in total.¹⁶ Naivasha, the southernmost of the five towns chosen, is a stopping point on the way to Nairobi from locations throughout Rift Valley. Naivasha is Kenya’s major flower-producing region: exporting flowers was Kenya’s largest foreign exchange earner in 2007 and today remains significant, in third place (after tourism and tea).¹⁷ However, the industry’s exploitative employment has had major social implications for families in the area. Naivasha was hard hit by PEV and borders an arid region to the south, which has been affected by the ongoing drought. However this is not reflected on humanitarian food security monitoring maps and the population has not received the same degree of humanitarian aid as northern Kenya.

Figure 5: Map of towns where data was collected: Kenya



¹⁴ Consortium for Street Children (2010) *Street Children - A Mapping & Gapping Review of the Literature 2000-2010*
¹⁵ Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2009) *Kenya Population & Housing Census*
¹⁶ Based on calculations made with data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2009) *Kenya Population & Housing Census* (data available only disaggregates 0-15 and 16-24)
¹⁷ IIG Briefing Paper (2009) *The Impact of the Kenyan Post-election Violence on the Kenyan Flower Export Industry*

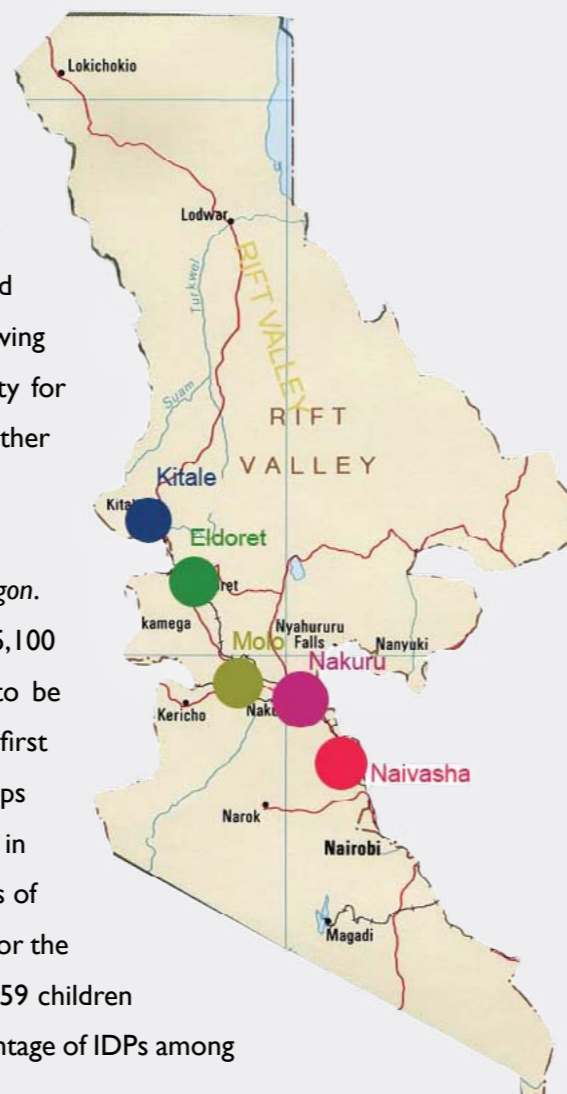
Nakuru: Data collection covered Lanet, Municipality, and Barut. Nakuru North and Nakuru have 322,192 children between 0-15 and approximately 351,700 children in total.¹⁸ The provincial capital of Rift Valley, many government departments, humanitarian and civil society organisations have a strong presence here, adding numerical complexity to responses. Many IDPs fled to Nakuru during PEV and the town has seen an unprecedented population and economic boom in recent years, making it one of the fastest growing towns in East Africa.¹⁹ It is also seen as a place of opportunity for those struggling to survive at home or living on the streets of other towns.

Molo & Kuresoi: Data collection covered Molo, Kamara, and Elburgon. Molo has 264,801 children between 0-15 and approximately 285,100 children in total.²⁰ Molo and Kuresoi are locally considered to be litmus tests of rising tensions: they are historically some of the first places to erupt into violence, including PEV in 2008. IDP camps remain in Molo and Kuresoi districts, and economic activity in local markets continues to operate along ethnic lines. Such signs of unease do not bode well for the possibility of violence in 2012. For the purposes of the research, the two districts are combined: only 59 children were interviewed in Kuresoi, but is significant for the high percentage of IDPs among the children interviewed (70%).

Eldoret: Data collection covered Wareng, Eldoret East and West. Wareng, Eldoret East and West have 389,752 children between 0-15 and approximately 430,200 children in total. Eldoret is the capital of Northern Rift and many people pass through Kitale in search of opportunities in Eldoret. It was deeply scarred by PEV and many IDP camps remain in its vicinity.

Kitale: Data collection covered Tranzoia West & East. Kitale Municipality, Central: Tranzoia East and West have 283,413 children between 0-15 and approximately 307,200 children in total. Kitale, the gateway to semi-arid northern Kenya and at the foot of the troubled Mount Elgon region, is the first stopping point for families or children fleeing drought further north, and is also home to people displaced by Mount Elgon conflict as well as PEV.

Figure 6: Detailed map of towns where data was collected – Rift Valley Province

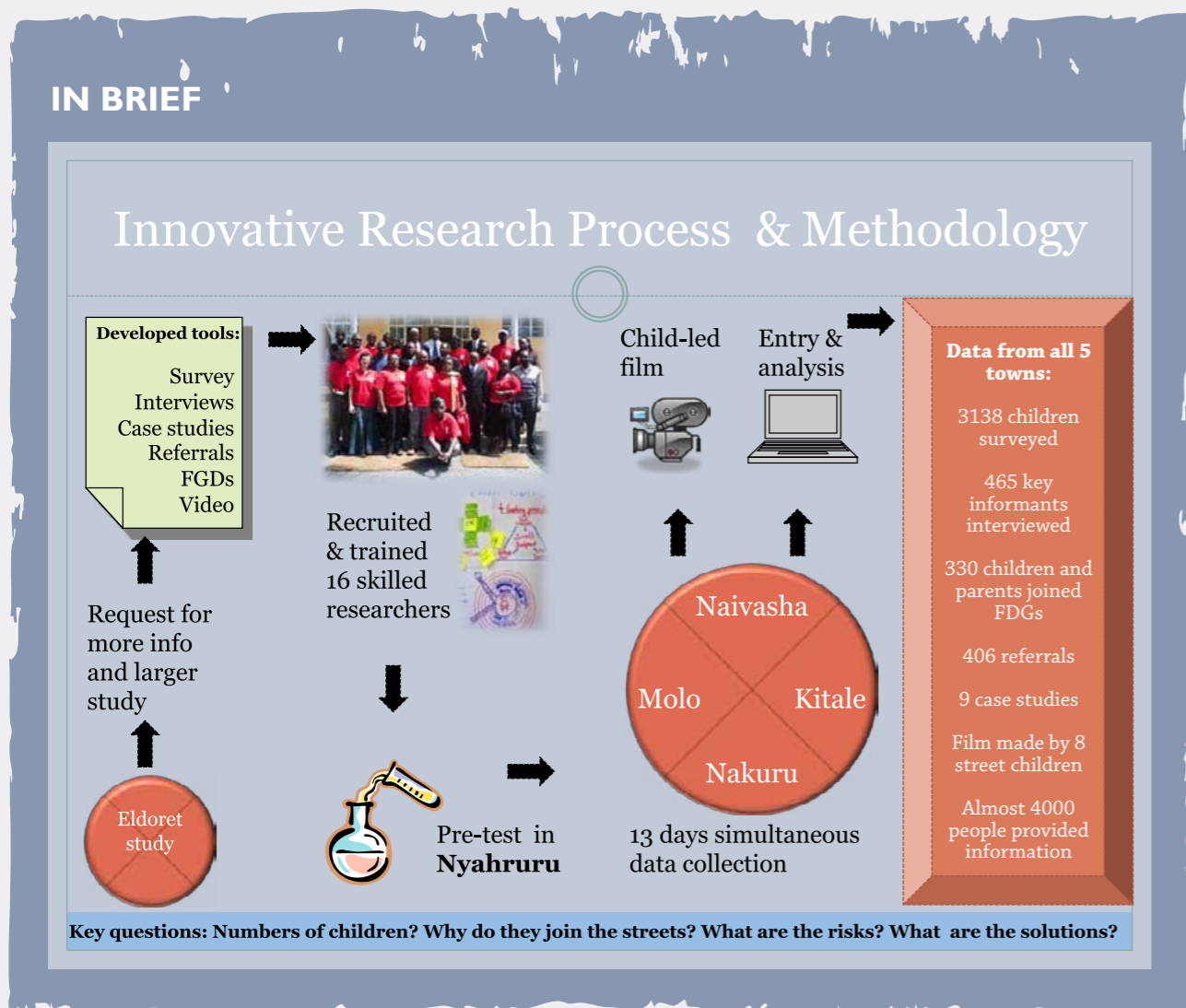


¹⁸ Based on calculations made with data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2009) Kenya Population & Housing Census (data available only disaggregates 0-15 and 16-24)
¹⁹ Daily Nation (December 2009) *Nakuru's safe haven tag attracts big investments* www.nation.co.ke/magazines/smartcompany/-/1226/832136/-/r5te35z/-/index.html (accessed 07.01.2011)
²⁰ Based on calculations made with data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2009) Kenya Population & Housing Census (data available only disaggregates 0-15 and 16-24)

2. Process and Methodology



Picture 3: Children playing in front of their IDP camp



2.1 Strategy and design

The study aimed to answer the question **‘Why are children joining the streets and how are they protected?’** A deductive strategy was used to prove or disprove the hypothesis that the numbers of street children had increased. Because the study required flexibility to explore issues which arose during the process, it used an ‘iterative’ approach (i.e. developing questions for focus groups based on survey answers given). The study was designed to provide a cross-sectional snapshot in time of the situation of children connected to the streets, as well as to identify causal connections between factors, such as emergencies and children connecting with the streets.

This design has strengths as well as weaknesses regarding reliability and validity. It allows us to understand children’s current realities and their reasons for joining the streets, but cannot provide a full picture of past emergencies and their impact on children’s lives. Equally, it has limits in only capturing the situation of those children affected by crisis who *remain* on the streets in 2011 and does not capture those pushed by emergencies but no longer connected with the streets.

A predominantly quantitative profiling methodology was chosen to enable a comprehensive analysis of the numbers and situation of children connected to the streets in Rift Valley. This is a significant departure from many previous studies regarding such children, which are largely qualitative and fail to access large numbers of children or quantify the scale of the issue.

The research findings cannot easily be generalized across Kenya or even to other towns in Rift Valley, as each context is highly specific. However it would be possible and encouraged to replicate this study elsewhere in Kenya using the same methods and tools, adapting specific questions where necessary. The findings revealed the importance of baseline data to avoid programming based on assumptions and to measure the impact of interventions on children, as well as to quantify the scale of need.²¹

2.2 Research process

The study was carried out in two phases. It was initially piloted in Eldoret in June 2011 through collaboration between Save the Children and the Children’s Department and Area Advisory Councils. **The data in this report refers to Phase II of the study, unless specified to relate to Eldoret.** The tools for Phase II were significantly modified, based on lessons learned from the Eldoret pilot, making it difficult to combine statistics across all five towns.²²

During Phase I, the research coordinator, in collaboration with the Children’s Department, developed tools and recruited and trained eight researchers, who collected data in Eldoret in June 2011.

During Phase II, another research coordinator recruited and trained a team of 16 local researchers, including a team leader for each location. Tools were adapted, re-tested by research team leaders and the study was rolled out simultaneously across Molo, Naivasha, Nakuru and Kitale in September/October 2011 (See ‘In Brief’ section of methodology).²³

Building collaboration amongst a broad range of actors was essential to the success of the study. Throughout both phases, action plans and methodologies were shared and feedback sought from key stakeholders in national, provincial and local government, and with UN, NGO and community-based organisations. Organisations and government actors contributed staff as researchers, office space for workshops, time as respondents, and expertise and advice during the roll-out.

Responding to the issue of children connected to the streets remains an ongoing struggle that the Kenyan government and NGOs continue to work with every day. This study is just a part of this larger momentum and relies on such collaborations to turn the information into concrete action.

²¹ All tools, training materials etc are available for replication from bridget_steffen@yahoo.co.uk

²² Where the phrase ‘all children’ is used in the report, it refers to data collected during Phase II only. Eldoret data is always displayed separately as stand-alone statistics.

²³ For detailed outline of the process, see also ‘Profiling Work Plan’ in annex D

2.2.1 Tools developed

Eight tools were adapted from Phase I and developed for Phase II (See Figure 7). The major tool was a survey that aimed to reach the maximum possible number of children connected to the streets in the four towns. In Phase II this tool was split into two sections: a short questionnaire conducted with every child and a more in-depth questionnaire conducted with every fourth child. This ensured speedy data collection whilst capturing the detail required, extrapolated from the longer questionnaire as representative of all children interviewed.

Figure 7: Tools developed for Phase II

	Tool	Target
1	Survey A	All children connected to the streets aged 0-17
2	Survey B	Every 4 th child connected to the streets aged 0-17
3	Focus group discussions	Girls 7-12, 13-17; Boys 7-12, 13-17
4	Focus group discussions	Parents of children connected to the streets (men and women)
5	Key informant interview	Base commanders aged 17+
6	Key informant interview	Government/ NGO stakeholders
7	General referral	Children connected to the streets
8	Urgent referral	Children connected to the streets
9	Participatory video	Children connected to the streets in Nakuru

To ensure continuity between the study phases, the Kitale team returned to Eldoret to conduct focus group discussions (FGDs) specifically with children affected by emergencies.

Other tools included FGDs with children affected by emergencies and their parents, involving discussion, drawing and case studies. These allowed researchers to explore specific issues from the surveys in more depth. Researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders such as staff from organisations and government departments directly working with children²⁴ as well as with base commanders (the youth who control and allegedly protect children in the streets). These interviews helped identify existing vulnerabilities and capacities in the protection of children in emergencies.

During Phase II data collection, there was a request from children and youth connected to the streets in Nakuru for support to create a film to share their experiences in their own words. Save the Children and Mercy Corps facilitated seven children and one base commander to create their own film, which sheds light on how children experience their own situation and has become a vital component in sharing the findings of the study.²⁵

Finally, with support from Children’s Department staff and volunteers who used to be connected to the streets themselves, in Phase II the teams made 409 referrals of children requiring support, including medical care and family reunification.

2.2.2 Preparation and training

During Phase I, the team was made up predominantly of staff ‘seconded’ by local organisations in Eldoret working with children connected to the streets. They underwent three-day training before collecting data under the direct supervision of the coordinator.

During Phase II, four Team Leaders and 12 Research Assistants were recruited from the four main locations in collaboration with local organisations. The relatively young professionals (with experience in research and working with IDPs and children from complex backgrounds) were assigned to research teams to reflect as closely as possible the range of languages, ethnic groups and gender of children in each specific location. This was essential for building trust with children to share information.

The team spent five days in a residential training and preparation workshop (Team Leaders stayed for further leadership training and to pilot the tools). During the workshop, the team developed common understandings of issues relating to protection and children connected to the streets, as well as covering research methods, ethics and data collection. Each team, in collaboration with local Children’s Department representatives, developed location-specific strategies to access children during data collection. This involved:

- Mapping geographical locations where children connected to the streets can be found such as ‘bases’, schools, institutions, bars and video shops,
- Developing a mobilization strategy, identifying the gate-keepers to request access e.g. base commanders, directors of feeding programmes, IDP camp representatives, barmen etc,
- Identifying and mitigating challenges like police round-ups, rain and security concerns
- Mapping the best days or times of day to work,
- Mapping ways to reach the more hidden groups of children linked to the streets such as sex workers or school-going children who spend time in the streets,

Sampling was done purposively by identifying locations known to host many children connected to the streets. Team data collection plans were continually adapted based on ‘snowballing’ information provided by children about new or unknown areas where other children could be found. Data collection was conducted simultaneously in the four teams, facilitated by a network of local organisations, children and youth, arguably providing the first comprehensive data set in the region.

²⁴ See annex E for list of interviews in Phase II

²⁵ A number of additional interviews were later filmed with children in Eldoret and incorporated into the video with the assistance of UNICEF

2.3 Roll out

The research teams carried out both phases of data collection at various times of the day and night (Phase I: 7th–14th June 2011; Phase II: 26th September–8th October 2011).

Figure 8: Number of children interviewed, by district

District	Girls	Boys	Sex not specified	Total children interviewed - all	Total children interviewed - connected to the streets
Eldoret – Phase I	56	256	1	313	292
Molo & Kuresoi	184	583	5	772	619
Nakuru	174	657	1	832	761
Naivasha	273	408	2	683	567
Kitale	131	403	4	538	457
Total Phase II	762	2051	12	2825	2404
Total Phase I & II	818	2307	13	3138	2696

2.3.1 Coverage

Including Eldoret, a total of 3138 children were interviewed across the five towns in the province (Figure 8). Of these, 442 children did not spend any time on the streets, but were interviewed for a variety of reasons, including: they used to be connected to the streets; they socialised with children who were connected to the streets; or they worked close to the streets. Some children also did not clarify their status regarding the streets, and were therefore not included in the statistical analysis. During the second phase alone, 2825 children were interviewed with survey A, of which 509 children were also interviewed using the more detailed survey B.²⁶ **Data in this report refers to information given by the 2404 children during phase II who were directly connected with the streets**, unless otherwise specified as data from Eldoret. In total (both phases), almost 4000 adults and children provided information during the research.

²⁶ Where statistics from survey B are used, they are extended as a 'valid percentage' of all children interviewed in Phase II. These can be identified from annexes B & C, which detail the survey questions used.

Figure 9:

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED DURING DATA COLLECTION

- Inadequate time to interview all eligible children. All teams could have continued data collection after completing the allocated days. Children often wanted to tell their full story beyond the survey questions
- Difficulty gaining access to some children, especially girls
- Inebriation of children during interviews (glue, alcohol, other drugs, exhaustion)
- Availability of children (they needed the time to work / beg)
- Bad weather (especially rain)
- Police round-ups causing children to hide /leave town
- Occupational health hazards (in dump sites, traffic, lice etc)
- Team exhaustion
- Insecurity from criminal gangs, especially with night data collection
- Similar research initiated by Ministry of Local Government conducted in Nakuru at the same time, despite being informed of the study
- Questionnaire fatigue: children said people always come asking but never see results

2.3.2 Ensuring data quality

Quality of data collection was monitored through the following mechanisms:

- Coordinator’s observation of profiling for at least two days in each location.
- Daily team brief/debriefing sessions facilitated by Team Leaders in each location.
- Coordinator conducted daily individual debrief phone calls with each Team Leader.
- Many of the stakeholder interviews were conducted by the coordinator.
- Validation workshops and briefings conducted with duty-bearers, government officials, and other organisations working with children were conducted by the consultant across the Rift Valley.
- Four validation workshops were also conducted with children themselves.

2.3.3 Ethical considerations

A critical concern during data collection was ensuring that the study did not harm children. The following issues were addressed to ensure this:

- **Consent:** Considering that many children connected to the streets were unaccompanied, parental consent was difficult to obtain. Therefore, based on practice from other studies (though considerations of consent with such children are rare),²⁷ discussion with the research team, and agreement from the Provincial Director of Children’s Services, it was agreed that children six years and below required a legal guardian to

²⁷ SNV/Kenya and GTZ PROSYR (2002) *The Story of Children Living & Working on the Streets of Nairobi – Ordinary Just like any other person*

be present during data collection and to help answer questions that the child did not understand. All other children would give their own consent after a simple explanation of the study by the researcher.

- **Anonymity:** Each child was asked for their nickname as a way of building trust at the start of the interview but the child's full name was never requested. All data was anonymised during data entry and **all names used in the report case studies are pseudonyms and do not include the children's location.**
- **Data handling and storage:** All data was and continues to be kept in a locked location.
- **Duplication:** Duplication was avoided by using indelible ink pens, temporarily provided to the teams by the Independent Electoral Commission. This also helped spread the word amongst children that they needed to be 'counted'.
- **Referral:** The study included a budget for urgent medical referrals to be handled immediately and researchers asked each child if they required support as part of the interview process. A referral volunteer accompanying each team followed up on these issues.
- **Sharing research outcomes with children:** 'Giving research back'²⁸ to the children has been an ongoing process, beginning with the validation workshops as well as invitations to some children and youth to join stakeholder meetings to discuss recommendations. The participatory film will facilitate sharing broader findings through large-scale outdoor screenings in each of the five towns.

2.3.4 Taking the study forward

Following dissemination of this study report, the Children's Department has proposed the development of a Rift Valley-wide strategy, working closely with Save the Children, UNICEF and a wide range of key stakeholders dealing directly with issues of children connected to the streets.

3. Findings: Experiences of Children



Picture 4: Boy connected to the streets at the dumpsite

²⁸ Lorraine Young & Hazel Barrett (2001) *Ethics and Participation: Reflections on Research with Street Children*. *Ethics, Place & Environment*, 4:2, 130-134

The findings are broken down into two sections: children’s reasons for joining the streets and their experiences connected with the streets; and the effectiveness of current actors to respond to children’s situations.

3.1 Factors that cause children to join the streets

IN BRIEF

- **Hunger as a result of food insecurity is the biggest cause for children to join the streets** in Rift Valley. This needs further investigation and families and youth need support to be self-sufficient in order to cope with crises
- **Abuse**, a major cause for children joining the streets, is often linked to family breakdown through alcohol, separation or death of a caregiver
- **Lack of access to education** due to cost poses major protection risks. School drop-out leads children to join the streets, and the chances of getting a primary school education drop dramatically once on the streets. Accessible education must be a key strategy in addressing and preventing this crisis

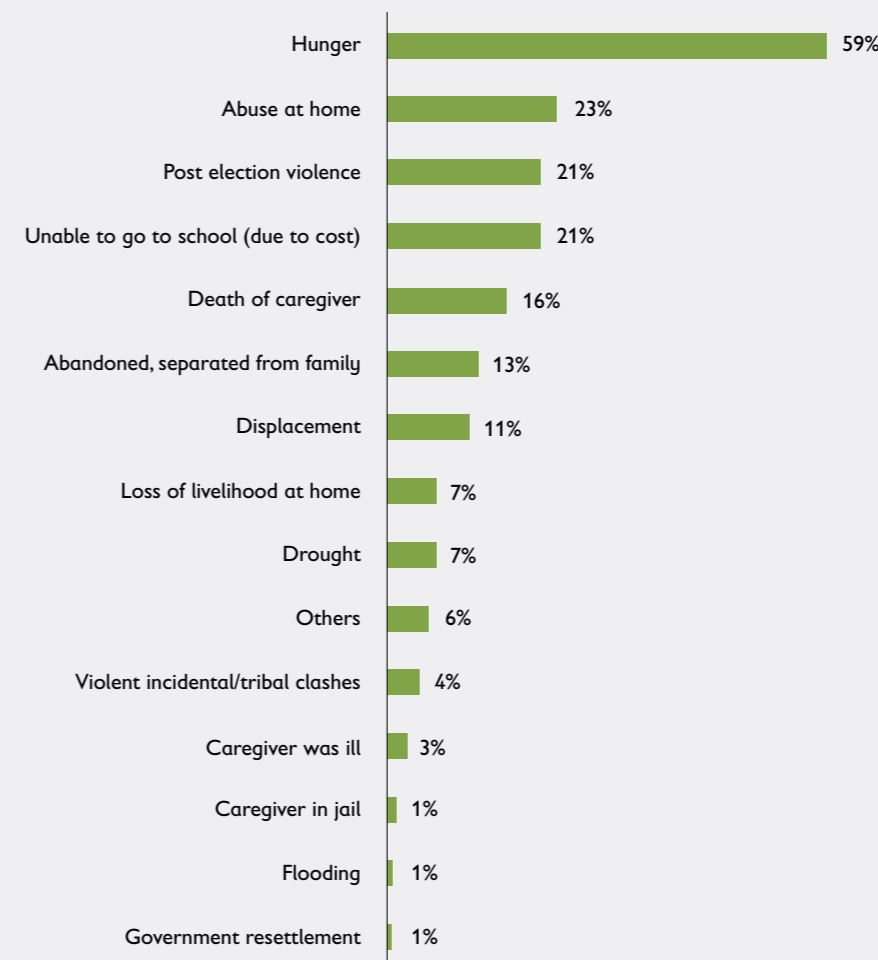
For most children, a combination of reasons pushes them to spend time away from home and draws them to the streets (Figure 10). Crucially, these push-factors are symptomatic of structural and social problems in Kenya. Issues of land distribution, governance, corruption, ethnic division and unemployment can drive families and children to take actions into their own hands, their lives and engagements with the streets becoming symbolic of these problems. Many children choose the streets as opposed to other survival strategies because of the availability of food and money, as well as for social reasons (Figure 11).

However, all these factors varied widely from one district to another.

Overall, when children were asked to rank their **single** biggest reason for choosing the streets it is to earn money (24%). The two other single biggest reasons are peer pressure and PEV, suggesting that the pull of the streets, in some cases, may be even stronger than that which pushes them away from home.

In Eldoret, most children left home in search of food or money to meet basic needs, and a significant number due to conflict at home (Figure 12).

Figure 10: Phase II: Factors that pushed children to join the streets



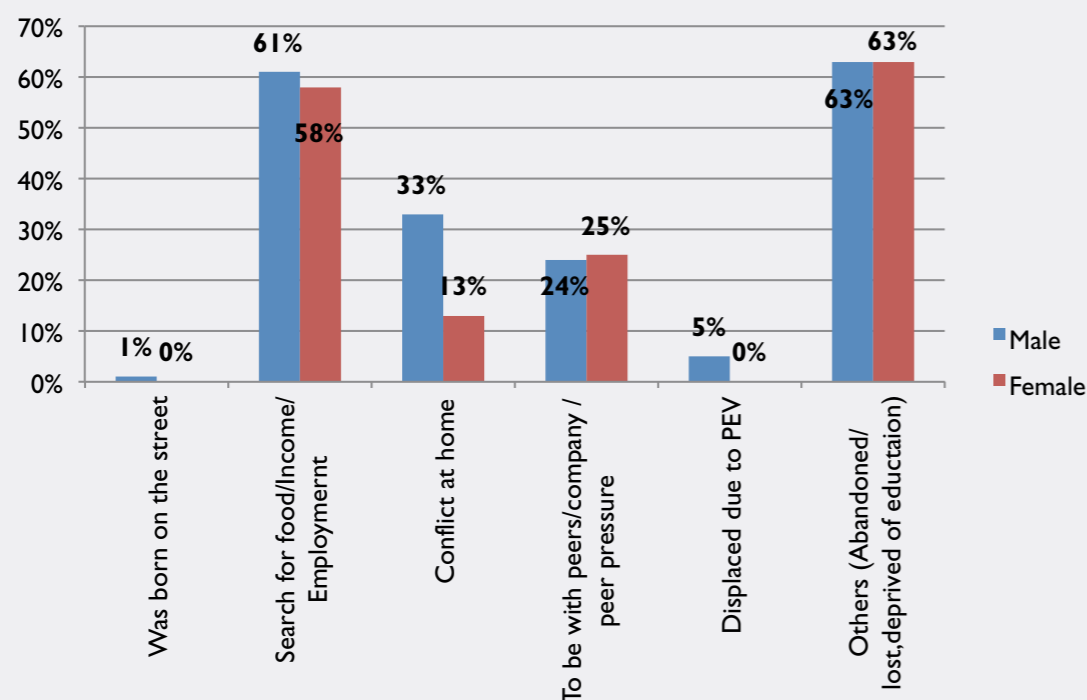
However, the perception of Eldoret stakeholders of why children join the streets differed from this reality of chronic poverty and abuse. Government stakeholders cited lack of parental care, abandonment due to unwanted pregnancies, negligence and peer influence as the main reasons. This is significant because current responses often reflect this moralistic approach towards families, rather than recognising that it is chronic poverty, not usually neglect, that prevents families from being able to provide, and that tackles abuse effectively through the courts.

The most significant push factors are analysed separately in the sections below and in the subsequent section on emergencies. Pull factors are addressed throughout the findings chapter.

Figure 11: Phase II: Factors that pulled children to join the streets

Pull factors	%
To earn money	65%
Peer pressure/friends on the streets	42%
To access services (availability of food handouts on streets)	42%
To socialize/be independent	37%
Availability of glue	6%
Other Factors	3%
Born in the streets	1%

Figure 12: Eldoret: Factors causing children to join the streets



3.1.1 Food insecurity impacts on protection

Food insecurity is the most fundamental factor causing thousands of children to connect with the streets each year in Rift Valley. Children in Naivasha described how after three or four days of sleeping hungry, there was little option but to go to the streets where food was available. In Kitale, where many children are originally from Turkana, 70% of all children interviewed cited hunger; and the availability of food handouts is the major pull factor that draws them to the streets.

Food insecurity in the province may seem counter-intuitive as Rift Valley is considered the breadbasket of Kenya. Arguably, this is due to the following realities:

- The recent increase in food and fuel prices (shown to have major repercussions for children)²⁹
- Large-scale landowner control of vast tracts of Rift Valley land (fertile, but inaccessible to ordinary people)
- Rapid urbanisation during displacement caused by PEV, with no possibility to grow food
- Alleged discriminatory redistribution of land during government resettlement following PEV³⁰

Families unable to meet basic needs of children have little leverage to prevent children from going to look for their own food. Some actively support this for their children’s survival.

3.1.2 Abuse by and death of caregivers

Abuse in the home, which is supposed to be the child’s greatest protection, makes the street an attractive alternative. Girls and boys described physical, sexual and emotional abuse against them or other members of their families, often perpetrated by family members, and particularly when children are looked after by extended family, step parents or family friends. Abuse appears to often occur alongside family breakdown such as parental separation, death or re-marriage. Living with extended families without adequate support or monitoring can lead to children being neglected, over-worked or treated differently from biological children in the household. In some cases, even children’s basic freedoms are curtailed, such as Moses³¹, who ran away after being tied up by his grandmother.³² Death of a caregiver is a major blow to many families on the poverty line as they may often be the sole breadwinner (Figure 13). In Eldoret, a large percentage of children interviewed come from families where one or both parents have died (44%). Interestingly, where both parents are alive and together, the portion of children citing personal choice/desire as a key reason for coming to the street is much higher (35%) than the average (25%); whilst children from families where the mother remarried are more likely to cite conflict at home (58% compared to the average of 32%).

Figure 13: CASE STUDY

Rebecca, 13, was in school but her school uniform got ripped and she needed to replace it. Rebecca stayed at home and began going to the streets. She has missed the beginning of the next school year because her single mother can’t afford to buy her the uniform. Her father has died and her mother is an alcoholic, brewing illicit alcohol to survive and support her children.

Many families make and sell illicitly brewed alcohol as a means of survival, which can lead to alcoholism and abuse by family members. Members of the local community may regularly frequent the house while drunk or to drink.³³ All this can put children at risk of abuse, as well as impacting on other areas of their lives.

In spite of its devastating effects, physical punishment such as caning is perceived as acceptable and even necessary by many traditional gatekeepers of social codes such as village chiefs³⁴ and even by many young, educated Kenyans today³⁵. Children in Kitale and Nakuru particularly highlighted abuse as a reason for leaving home, which may be directly linked to the more ‘permanent’ nature of children sleeping in the streets full time in these towns, since returning to an abusive home is not an alternative.

Notably, IDP children were less likely to cite abuse as a reason for joining the streets (15% as opposed to 28% among children who had not been displaced).

²⁹ The impact of food price crisis on children is well-documented by Plan International (2008) *Understanding the impact of Food Prices on Children*
³⁰ UNDP & UNOCHA (2011) *Draft Situational Analysis Report on Necessary Conditions for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement, Reconciliation and Restoration of Human Dignity of Internally Displaced People*; and Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (2011) *The Invisible Violence in Kenya – a case study of Rift Valley and Western Regions*

³¹ Not his real name
³² Validation workshop in Nakuru, December 2011
³³ Mothers came to FGDs in Molo drunk from local brew
³⁴ Key Informant Interview with four chiefs, Molo, October 2011
³⁵ Perceptions among the research team highlighted this during the preparation workshop sessions

**Figure 14:
CASE STUDY**

Judith, 15, dropped out of school to work as a house help when her father died because her mother has mental health issues. She earns 1500 KSH per month to support her mother and four siblings. All four children were sent home from school when Judith could not pay the 1000 KSH levy for the school building fund.

3.1.3 The cost of education’s impact on children’s protection

Children’s right to education is under threat. Children highlighted a direct link between the inability to attend school due to cost, and their choice to join the streets. This implies that **if school was free, over one in five of the children currently on the streets would be in school.** According to the Ministry of Education’s (MOE) Free Primary Education Policy introduced in 2003³⁶ primary education is free and levies and tuition fees are forbidden. However, in practice, schools charge parents undeclared extra costs to cover basic operating costs and even salaries. This makes basic education inaccessible to many. According to several public primary school headmasters, costs vary by school and location but frequently include tuition, in which essential curriculum material is taught in regular ‘extra’ classes (Figure 15).³⁷ Children are sent home if they are unable to pay. **Less than half (44%) of all children interviewed are currently in formal education,** 11% are in informal education, and 45% are not attending school. In Eldoret, just 6 children (only 2% of those interviewed), when asked what they do when they are not on the streets, reported going to school.

**Figure 15:
APPROXIMATE COST OF EDUCATION**

MOE provides schools with KSH1020 per child per year. Parents are typically requested to pay:

Cost KSH	Items required
980	Uniform
2800	8 books
1500	1 desk
300	50 x6 exams per year
7200	200 x36 Saturday tuition
600	200 x3 Holiday tuition
13,380	TOTAL per child per year

However, lack of access to free education is not only a push factor but is a critical area of discrimination once the child has become connected to the streets.

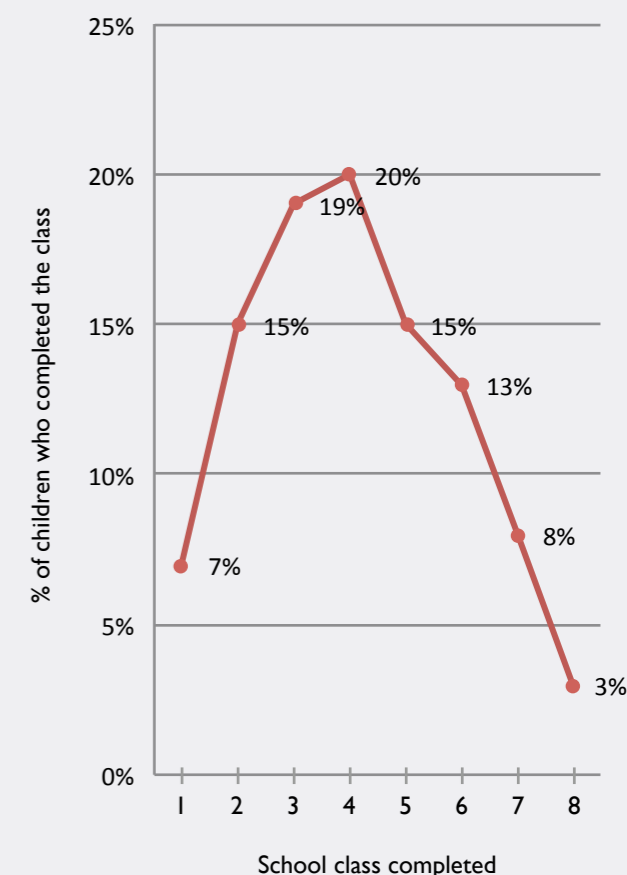
36 Oxfam (2009) *Urban Poverty and Vulnerability in Kenya - Background Analysis for the Preparation of an Oxfam GB Urban Programme Focused on Nairobi.*
 37 Key informant Interviews with: two Deputy Headmasters, a teacher, municipal education authority, a head teacher and a voluntary teacher in Naivasha, Nakuru and Kitale in September and October 2011

Of all children connected to the street who have been to school, a staggering 97% drop out before finishing primary school (Figure 16) and more than half do not proceed beyond standard four. This is mainly due to cost, but is also due to the time required to attend (which would otherwise be used to earn money or look for food), not wanting to go, or lack of basic hygiene essentials such as sanitary towels. There were also reports of stigmatisation by teachers and other pupils because of children’s connection to the streets. If a child connected to the streets manages to stay in school, they will typically not eat lunch – in some schools this is as much as 75% of the school³⁸ (Figure 17). Sporadic feeding programmes have improved child attendance in certain schools, however they remain unsustainable and expensive: when stopped, children stop coming to school.³⁹

Once a child has dropped out it is difficult to return to school due to cost, the parental involvement required and identity documents needed – which, if they exist, may be with parents who children are unwilling, or unable to contact. Organisations manage to re-integrate small numbers of children, but if a child left school for a while or is addicted to glue, he/she requires rehabilitation: such initiatives are few and far between.

The Ministry of Education provides schools 1020 KSH per child per year and does not monitor extra charges levied; still claiming that primary education is free and compulsory. In 2009 the Ministry was exposed to have embezzled over 103m Kenyan Shillings meant for the Education Sector. According to the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission Integrity Centre, “approximately 100,000 plus children who were meant to benefit from this fund next year will be denied their Right to Education”.⁴⁰ The police use the ‘compulsory’ aspect of the policy to justify round-ups and parental arrest for neglect. Neither strategy provides children access to the education they need.

Figure 16: Class completion of all children connected to the streets who have been to school



38 Key Informant Interview, Head teacher, Nakuru, November 2011
 39 Key Informant Interview with a head teacher, Naivasha October 2011
 40 Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission Integrity Centre (2009) *Press Statement – Brief on Investigation into the Misappropriation of Funds for the Kenya Education Sector Support Project and Western Kenya Flood Mitigation Project*

**Figure 17:
CASE STUDY**

Nancy, who is in class seven, leaves school at lunch break, when she and many of her class mates have nothing to eat, to have sex in exchange for food or money. Unable to wash, she returns for afternoon classes but she says at least she has a full stomach.

3.2 The impact of humanitarian crises on children joining the streets

IN BRIEF

- **Emergencies leave children stranded in the streets:** IDPs, who had been displaced by PEV, make up 37% of all children interviewed in the streets: we must prepare for emergencies to prevent child separation. Responding to the continuing IDP crisis is a matter of urgency.
- **Food insecurity is chronic** and cuts across all emergencies
- **Other emergencies such as drought are also causing children to join the streets,** particularly in towns near arid regions
- **The impact of emergencies on children in the region is huge:** almost half (47%) of children connected to the streets have been affected in some way by an emergency
- **IDP children, displaced by PEV, who are connected to the streets tend to have higher resilience** than other children connected to the streets

Humanitarian emergencies in Rift Valley Province have included crises such as PEV, drought, flooding, violent incidents/tribal clashes, and secondary effects such as food insecurity, which can become emergencies due to displacement or poor responses, including resettlement.

3.2.1 Emergencies cause children to join the streets

Children have been deeply affected by cyclical PEV, tribal clashes and drought across Rift Valley Province (Figure 18). Families already struggling with chronic poverty or still recovering from a previous emergency may experience a double-burden when coping with such shocks. 42% of children interviewed reported that they had been affected by PEV in some way⁴¹. This means the child may have been displaced, or was attacked, or witnessed violence etc, or the child experienced several of the above. Of these, 877 children had been displaced by PEV (37%)⁴². This was highest in Naivasha where 61% of children interviewed in Naivasha had been displaced by PEV. Furthermore, almost one in five children on the streets were affected by emergencies other than PEV.⁴³

⁴¹ This report makes a distinction between 'affected by' and 'pushed by'. 'Affected by' simply refers to the child's **experience of an event**. 'Pushed by' refers to a specific factor that **directly caused** the child to join the streets.

⁴² Based on the 2380 children who responded to this question.

⁴³ References to **IDPs in this report refer ONLY to IDPs displaced as a result of PEV**: the survey did not collect data to identify children displaced as a result of drought or other emergencies. 'Direct cause', as opposed to 'affected', means that the child specifically cited at least one emergency as a reason for leaving home.

Figure 18 below shows the proportion of children affected by emergencies. In this question, children could identify one or more types of emergency that they had been affected by, therefore some children reported multiple emergencies.

Figure 18: Proportion of children affected by an emergency, by the type of emergency⁴⁴

Type of emergency	Proportion of children affected by emergency				
	Molo & Kuresoi	Nakuru	Naivasha	Kitale	Total
Post-Election Violence	53%	27%	74%	16%	42%
Tribal clashes	7%	5%	28%	11%	12%
Drought	6%	3%	25%	17%	12%
Flooding	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Total proportion of children affected by emergencies	54%	29%	76%	34%	47%

Emergencies can disrupt traditional care arrangements that normally monitor and protect children from harm in their daily lives, and emergencies increase the risk of children being separated from their families:

- **During displacement:** losing sight of family during the panic or crowds when fleeing.
- **During humanitarian relief efforts:** poorly-planned distributions in which large crowds form, queues in which families are separated, or parents are unable to hold onto children when carrying goods or materials.
- **During resettlement:** poorly-planned resettlement programmes in which parents are not notified in advance when they will be resettled: children who are not at home when the transport is ready to leave are left behind in school or in the streets etc, or families are put on different transports.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to family separation and are less able to communicate basic information to ensure effective family tracing. The longer a child is separated from their family, the harder it can be to find family or to reintegrate the child again. Emergencies can also cause children enormous emotional distress because of the violence they may witness and the disruption to daily routines such as school, meals and play.

15% of children specifically cited at least one emergency (PEV, drought, tribal clashes, flooding) as a push factor for leaving home, whilst the number of children who said they had been affected by an emergency is even higher. **Almost half (47%) of all the children connected to the streets interviewed said they had been affected in some way by an emergency.** This is despite the fact that there has been no official emergency declared in Rift Valley for four years, suggesting it would have been even higher at the time. These **children remain stuck in the street years after emergencies officially end** with diminishing possibilities of rehabilitation and return or family reunification with every day that passes.

Those affected by emergencies often experience secondary effects of crises, such as food insecurity or domestic abuse following loss of homes or livelihoods. Children may not directly associate their hunger with PEV, thus,

⁴⁴ A single child may fall under several of these categories. Data based on total number of children interviewed who are connected to the streets – 2,404 children

the 21% of children who cited PEV as one of the reasons they joined the streets may be an underestimate of the actual impact of PEV on children's decision to leave home (Figure 10). Indeed, while PEV was the most frequently cited cause for IDPs to join the streets (55% of IDPs cited PEV as one of their reasons for joining streets), almost as many also, or exclusively, cited hunger and 28% cited displacement.

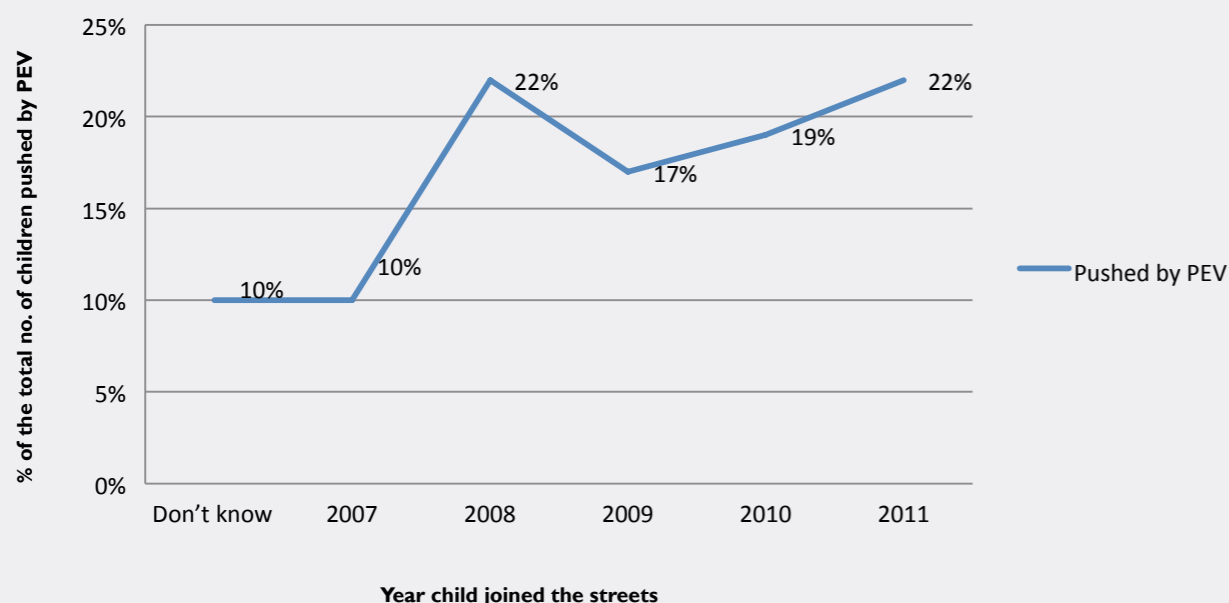
Interestingly, PEV was more frequently cited as one of the reasons for joining the streets by those IDP children that joined the streets in 2008 and 2009 compared to those that joined the streets in 2010. For those children that joined the streets in 2010, lack of food was the most frequently cited reason. A possible interpretation of this is that by 2010, IDP families were having to deal with food insecurity in the climate of rising food prices: a secondary effect of the original emergency of PEV. Indeed, 45% of IDPs cited food as their *single* biggest need, as compared to 39% of all children interviewed.

The hidden cost of emergencies persists for years after the fact, as families struggle to regain control of their lives and livelihoods. Some of these emergencies will be covered in the following sections.

3.2.2 Post election violence

PEV causes children to enter the streets. The study revealed that overall 21% of children joined the streets because of PEV. Of these children almost one quarter (22%) joined the streets in 2008, as may be expected in the aftermath of the violence. However, a similar proportion joined the streets in 2011, indicating that PEV continues to be an issue pushing children to join the streets. This may indicate an increase in tensions, possibly also linked to the International Criminal Court investigation of key political figures in connection with PEV, or even pre-election threats and violence ahead of the next elections.

Figure 19: When children pushed by PEV joined the streets by year ⁴⁵

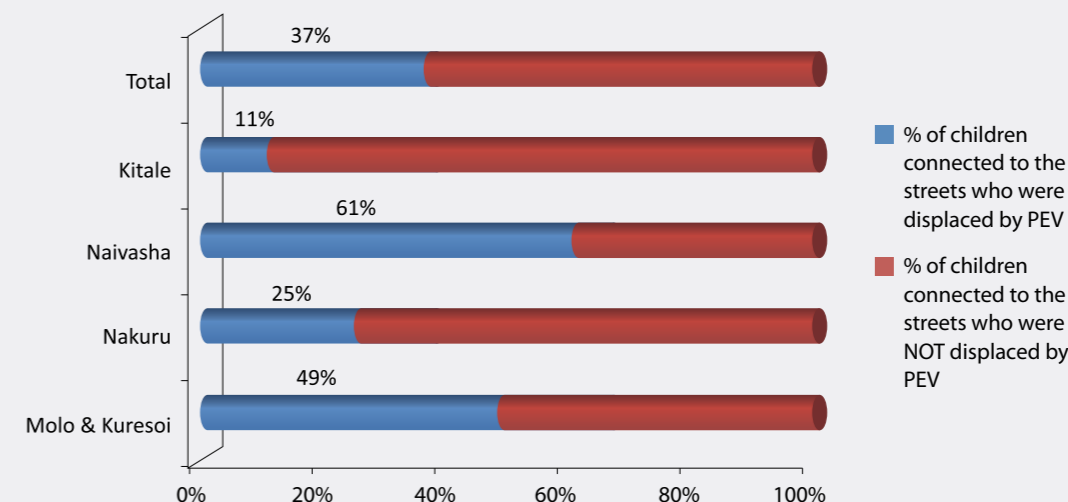


⁴⁵ Based on the 21% of children pushed to leave home by PEV

This is corroborated by the Provincial Peace Forum's daily alerts of rising tensions across Rift Valley⁴⁶ and taxi drivers allegedly bumping off passengers of other ethnic groups in Eldoret⁴⁷.

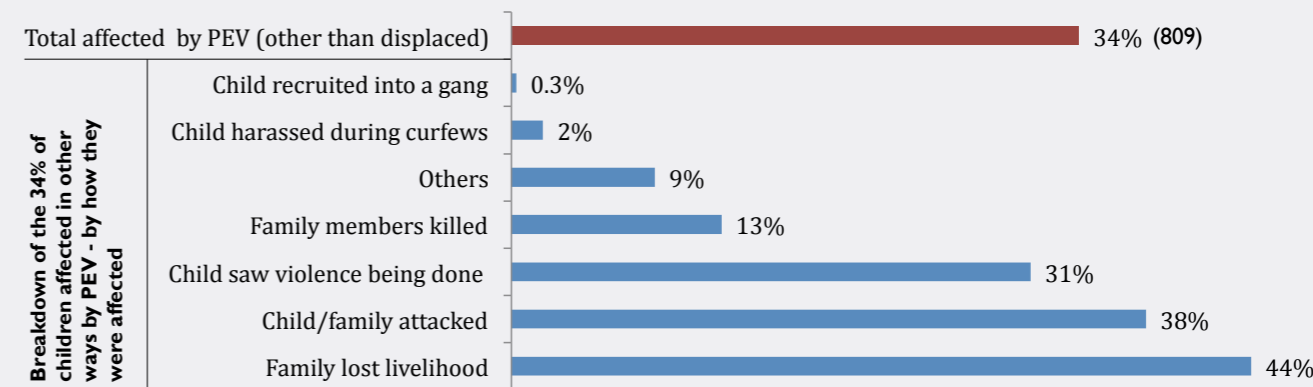
Of the 18 base commanders interviewed, 14 said that there was a time when there were more children in the streets than currently (especially in 2008), and the majority cited PEV as the cause of this increase. It is likely that some of those children are no longer on the streets today, suggesting that at the time the increase may have been more marked than this retrospective analysis is able to show.

Figure 20: % of children connected to the streets displaced by PEV, by district



In 2011, **37% of all children currently connected to the streets are IDPs due to PEV**. The district specific percentage of IDPs is particularly high in deeply scarred Naivasha, Molo and Kuresoi (Figure 20). In Naivasha, IDPs constitute almost two thirds of the population of children connected to the streets. Even more children were affected in some way by PEV such as witnessing violence and killing (Figure 21). It is important to note that children sometimes used the phrase tribal clashes when referring to PEV or did not differentiate between the two. Therefore the **direct impact of PEV as the cause for children joining the streets is likely to be larger than the 21% of children who cited 'PEV' as their reason** (Figure 10).

Figure 21: Children affected in other ways by PEV⁴⁸



⁴⁶ Protection Working Group meeting, Nakuru, August 2011

⁴⁷ Protection Working Group meeting, Nairobi, September 2011

⁴⁸ Percentages are out of all children who had been affected by PEV other than displacement (ie out of 809 children). Note that a single child may fall under several categories.

Molo, Naivasha and Kuresoi combined are also the sending districts for nearly half (47%) of all IDP children interviewed. Many children currently in the streets of Naivasha and Nakuru originate from Molo: Molo is the major sending district of child IDPs on the streets of other towns. Whilst in Molo and Kuresoi (combined) most IDP children came from within the district (74%), in Nakuru and Naivasha, more than half of the IDPs came from outside the district (Figure 22). This move of IDP children is likely due to the availability of food and money in the larger towns.

Figure 22: Origin of IDP children by district

District	% of IDPs in each receiving district	Proportion of IDPs who come from outside the receiving district	Main sending district from outside the receiving district	% of children which come from this main sending district
Molo & Kuresoi	34%	26%	Kisii	4%
Nakuru	21%	73%	Molo	15%
Naivasha	39%	70%	Molo	10%
Kitale	6%	47%	Bungoma	10%

Kitale has the smallest percentage of children connected to the streets who were displaced by PEV, in relation to its current child population in the streets (11%) (see figure 20). However, in Kitale, of those children who joined the streets in 2011, 37% were IDPs, suggesting a possible recent increase of election-related violence around Kitale in 2011, particularly around Bungoma, close to Mount Elgon and the Ugandan border.

Drought-affected children were not specifically asked if they were displaced by drought, so the figure for drought-related IDPs is not available. However, it is likely that Kitale would have a significant proportion, due to its geographical proximity to the drought-affected northern Rift, and corroborated by the high number of Turkana children in the streets, as individuals and families move and settling in Kitale and its surrounding areas.⁴⁹

Figure 23: Main ethnic groups of IDP children⁴⁷

Ethnic Group	Overall	Molo	Kuresoi	Nakuru	Naivasha	Kitale
Kikuyu	60%	63%	65%	51%	66%	28%
Luhya	13%	10%	3%	13%	13%	39%
Kisii	9%	15%	27%	4%	5%	10%
Luo	6%	3%	5%	13%	5%	4%

⁴⁹ Total number of IDPs in sample is 877

The Kikuyu ethnic group comprises the highest proportion of IDPs in all the districts except Kitale, where Luhyas are the majority (Figure 23). This is significant, when we compare this to who was historically targeted in these areas because it suggests that certain ethnic groups such as the Kalenjin may be in a better position to cope with the impact of emergencies, thus preventing their children from resorting to the streets.

IDP children identified a number of **factors related to PEV that caused them to connect to the streets:**

- **Displacement leading to family separation:** children were unable to trace their families so they joined the streets.
- **Poor living conditions & lack of support in camps:** cramped tents for large families and limited access to basics such as food, schools, clean water etc led children to search for a 'better' life.
- **Humanitarian withdrawal & camp proximity:** some IDP children joined the streets some time after the violence, gradually connecting with the streets from nearby camps, and due to the inadequacy or rapid withdrawal of aid, which left a dearth of basic services in the camps and resettlement programmes. Some camps remain, with residents surviving with little or no humanitarian support or access to services.
- **Inability to rebuild livelihoods due to unsystematic, rushed resettlement programmes:** families were separated when required to resettle at short notice; others were given cash but no land, or integrated into surrounding slums with inadequate opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods, from where children joined the streets.
- **Death, separation or injury of family members:** parents were killed, injured or sick during PEV. Extended family or communities provided spontaneous care, often coupled with abuse, exploitation or neglect.
- **Food insecurity due to loss of livelihoods / shelter, and the added burden of drought:** 44% of IDP children said their families lost their livelihoods due to PEV.

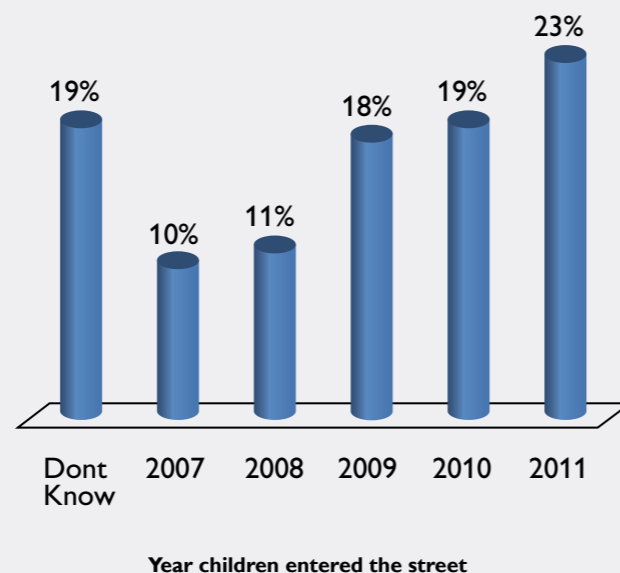
3.2.3 Drought

According to many organisations interviewed, particularly in Eldoret and Kitale, children from drought-affected areas comprise a significant, and growing, proportion of children connected to the streets. This is moderately reflected by the research, which indicates that drought has affected 12% of children connected to the streets and was more frequently cited as a reason for joining the streets by children who joined in the last 2 years. However, there are serious limitations to calculating the actual affect of drought on children joining the streets because it is highly likely that many children do not recognize drought as the reason they joined the streets, rather citing more immediate, related factors such as food insecurity or loss of livelihoods. Secondly, the timing of data collection may impact on whether some drought-affected children who were connected to the streets have subsequently returned home, or continued on to other destinations. Finally, Phase I of the study did not ask drought-related questions so this data is not available for Eldoret. Therefore, drought-related statistics should be used with caution, balanced by current realities indicated by practitioners.

Of those children who were pushed to leave home as a result of drought, 23% of them joined the streets in 2011 as opposed to 10% in 2007 (Figure 24).

Interestingly, of the 12% of children whose families were affected by drought, 57% of them joined the streets in 2009 and 2010, not in 2011. Considering the systematic increase in those children who cited drought as a cause, it could suggest that while children were less aware of the direct link in previous years, this reality has become more pronounced, particularly in 2011.

Figure 24: Distribution of children pushed to the streets because of drought, by the year that they entered the streets



Naivasha and Kitale's child population have been worst affected by drought, together comprising 76% of all those affected by drought (48% and 28% of all drought-affected children respectively). Of those who joined Kitale's streets in 2011, the majority were drought-affected. Children affected by drought in Kitale were predominantly Turkana (62%), Luhya and Pokot, where it has been most vicious. IDPs displaced as a result of PEV, were similarly affected by drought – three quarters of those PEV-related IDPs who were also affected by drought were from Naivasha, mostly from the Kikuyu ethnic group.

The persistent slow onset of drought - as opposed to sudden conflict-related crises – can make actors slow to respond or the effects to appear less immediate, even if the crisis itself is more predictable and preventable in the first place. Drought is an ongoing issue affecting the Province even in fertile areas due to displacement, resource scarcity and high unemployment, particularly because of its knock-on effect on food insecurity.

3.2.4 IDP children and families are resilient

It appears that IDP children, displaced by PEV, who are connected to the streets tend to have a high degree of resilience and are sometimes in a marginally better position than other children in the streets. These PEV-related IDP children:

- ✓ Spend fewer days on average in the streets (four rather than the five days per week by children who were not displaced)
- ✓ Tend to spend less time on the streets per day (36% of IDPs spend all day on the streets compared to 46% of all children)

- ✓ 60% of IDP children connected to the streets are attending formal education as opposed to 44% of the total population on the streets
- ✓ Sisters of IDPs connected to the streets were more likely to be at home with a guardian, more likely to be in school, and less likely to be on the streets
- X However, sisters of IDP children connected to the streets were *more* likely to be working in bars, hotels, farms, as house helps, and in the market. This implies that while the pressure for girls to remain at home and stay in school may be higher among IDP families, girls are expected to (simultaneously) contribute to family income in order to survive. This issue requires further study in order to understand their coping mechanisms and how to ensure these are supported, not undermined, through protection programming.
- X More IDP children than other children wanted emotional support (44%) to deal with their experiences, describing how programmes providing emotional support had only helped adults – suggesting that their specific needs to digest emotional trauma are not being recognized.

Figure 25: CASE STUDY

Eleud, aged 10, is one of ten children. He and his family were displaced during PEV and went to a camp. At that time he never went to the streets. When they were resettled, food rations stopped and his family was unable to cultivate any land in 2008 and 2009. His mother couldn't get employment because she was the wrong ethnic group and Eleud began to go to the streets to look for food, coming home at night. His father was an alcoholic and beat his mother so badly that her tenth child was born prematurely with a mental disability and was hospitalized for four months. She reported her husband to the police and he was arrested, but the father's sister bribed them to release him without charge. When the father threatened to kill Eleud's mother, she ran away with all ten children and left the father in the resettlement house that they were given. She tried to go to her father but he still lived in a tent. Eleud's eldest sister (aged 15) left to look for her own means and his mother searched for her but never found her. His mother was so desperate that she considered poisoning all her children and herself. Eventually she met a woman who had been resettled, who let them stay in a one-room place and cultivate a field, where the father would not find them. Eleud now takes his older and younger brother with him to the streets to collect scrap metal and sell it to middle men to get food. Sometimes he doesn't come back for days: his mother looks for them in the streets but has nothing to offer them at home so they keep running away.

3.2.5 Durable solutions – a far cry for children connected to the streets

Many of the IDPs whose children are connected to the streets have not benefited from any efforts towards a durable solution to their situation. IDP resettlement has been sporadic and uneven and has left many people unregistered or without support – particularly labourers or those with small businesses or livelihoods where they did not own land before PEV. Dozens of camps remain, and many people have attempted to integrate by

themselves, gravitating towards the slums, struggling to regain their livelihoods in an urban reality (Figure 25). One hopes that the IDP policy currently under debate in parliament will provide a clear mandate and framework within which to ensure durable solutions. However, considering the impact of PEV on children four years after it erupted, any solutions need to ensure that they fully tackle the urban reality of children connected to the streets who are there as a result of emergencies and inadequate responses.

3.3 Profiles of children connected to the streets

IN BRIEF:

- **Children are not a homogenous group** and have very different experiences and engagements with the streets – this needs recognition in programming.
- **Children are highly mobile**, often moving to where opportunities are greatest.

3.3.1 Children connected to the streets are not homogenous

Children connected to the streets are diverse. They have different reasons for spending time in the streets, different care arrangements, different experiences and perceive themselves differently. Importantly, not all children perceive their street existence as wholly negative. For some children, choosing to spend time on the streets is a liberating experience to socialise, be independent or help support their family. This section unpacks some of these profiles.

Numbers: The research teams interviewed 76% boys and 24% girls connected to the streets. This may not be an accurate reflection of the girl-boy ratio on the streets as girls are generally less visible than boys, however the teams were aware of this and developed strategies such as night and school interviewing to seek out girls. In Eldoret, the proportion of girls interviewed was lower than in Phase II, reaching just 17.5% girls (51) out of all 292 children connected to the streets who were interviewed. However, this may be more a product of data collection techniques than actual ratios in Eldoret.

Of all 2825 children interviewed in Phase II, 5% spent no days on the streets per week (i.e. used to be connected to the streets, have friends or work near the streets) while 10% did not answer this question. The remaining 85% (2404 children) are considered 'children connected to the streets', and all statistics in the report reflect answers from only these children unless specified as Eldoret data.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Unless data refers to a question from the more in-depth survey 1b, answered by 440 children connected to the streets. See methodology for further detail on the numbers interviewed by location etc.

Age: The range of ages captured on the streets was from as young as a 3 month old boy to 17 years. The average age of girls and boys connected to the streets is 12 years old. However, many did not know their date of birth, and some were unsure of their exact age. Boys in Nakuru and Kitale have a slightly older average age of 13, in Naivasha boy's average is 12, while in Molo it is 11. In Kitale, older boys tend to stay, while younger boys pass through and continue on to Eldoret. Girls' average age in the four locations is generally one year younger than boys. 90% of children have brothers or sisters (who are not necessarily connected to the streets). The average age of children in Eldoret is 13, though girls tend to be significantly younger with an average of 11 years old. Very young children were also present: 3% were below five years. Furthermore, 2% of children in Eldoret considered themselves 'married'.

Origin & Ethnic group: Three quarters of all children interviewed originate from Rift Valley Province, and 80% of these children are from across the districts where the research was carried out. Other significant sending provinces are Western, Nyanza and Central (all under 10%). Most children interviewed are from the Kikuyu (48%) and Luhya (20%) ethnic groups. However, in Kitale, 81% are Turkana.⁵¹

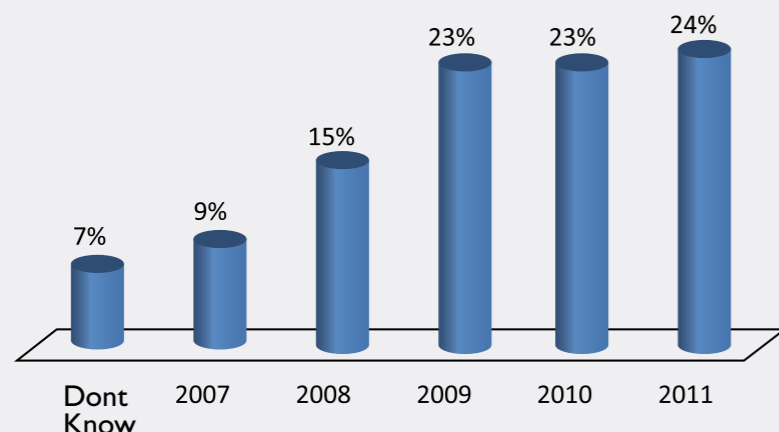
In Eldoret, the Luhya make up the single largest ethnic grouping (39%) among children connected to the streets and doubles the proportion of the second largest group, the Kikuyu (19%). The host community (Kalenjin) constitutes just 11% suggesting that the phenomenon of children connected to the streets is more likely to occur among migrant than host communities.

3.3.2 Some children spend many years connected to the street

Some children join the streets from one day to the next due to displacement or an incident of abuse, while others gravitate to the streets gradually, as food becomes scarce at home for example. Just over 1%, or 26 children interviewed, were born in the streets and have remained stuck there - some youth remain into adulthood, which can lead to generations of street families. 9% of the children interviewed have been connected to the streets since 2007.

⁵¹ See section on drought for analysis of why this might be

Figure 26: When children started spending time on the streets by year



3.3.3 Children are highly mobile

Children are highly mobile and choose where to be located based on various factors, including:

- An opportunity to make money, harvests, tourism circuits, availability of food or other services
- Danger of police round-ups/to escape the police
- Where their friends are
- Distance from home: to stay near or escape relatives
- In search of lost relatives

This mobility can make it difficult to develop trust with a child or to provide medical follow-up, and can lead to a child's registration into multiple programmes with little long-term impact. Mobility and the connectedness of towns is a crucial factor to consider when developing programming, to ensure operations are sufficiently linked up across the region.

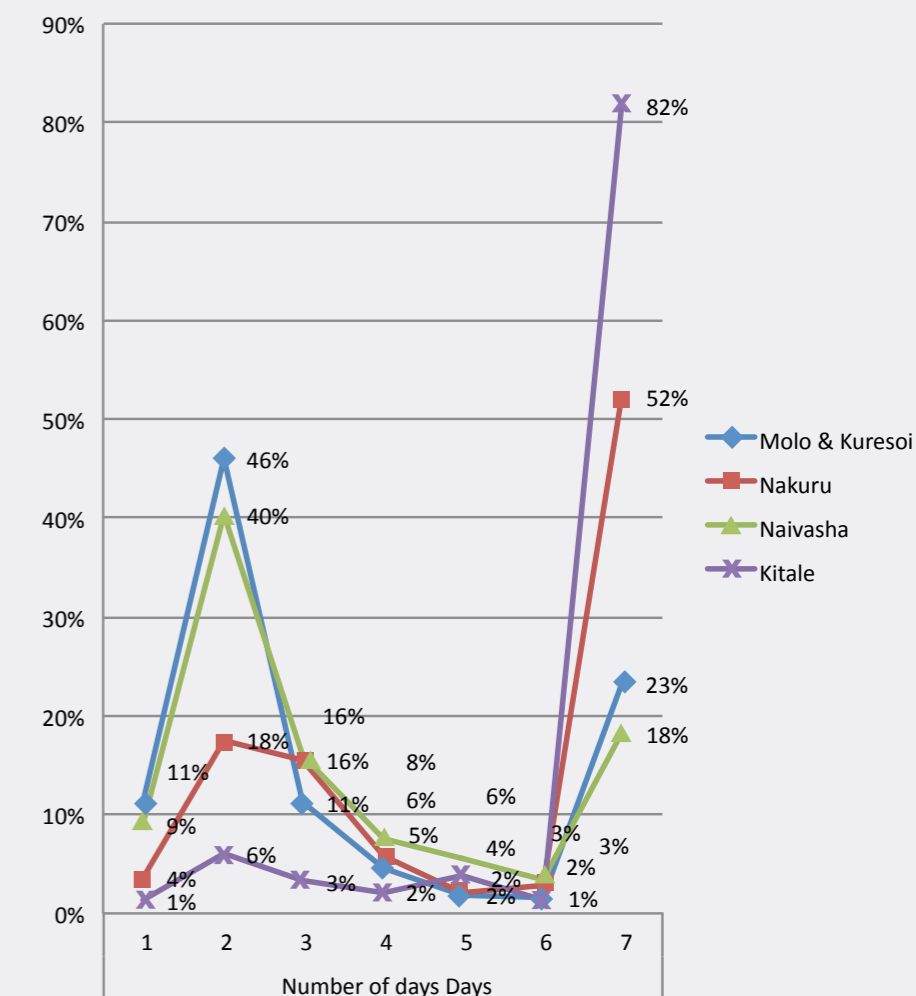
3.3.4 Time spent on the street varies

Children stay in the streets based on their circumstances and location. In Molo & Kuresoi and Naivasha, children tend to spend two days a week on the streets – often the weekends - while there is a more 'permanent' community of (slightly older) children who live on the streets seven days a week in Nakuru and in Kitale (Figure 27). If a child is attending school, he or she may come during the afternoons or on weekends. If a child needs food, he/she may come only on the days when an organisation is giving food handouts.

The children interviewed spend an average of five days a week on the streets and **40% of all children interviewed spend seven days a week on the streets. One quarter of all children interviewed always sleeps on the streets** and another 20% sometimes do. Just over half of all children said they never sleep on the streets; the remaining children were unsure. In Eldoret, most children (61%) spend every day of the week

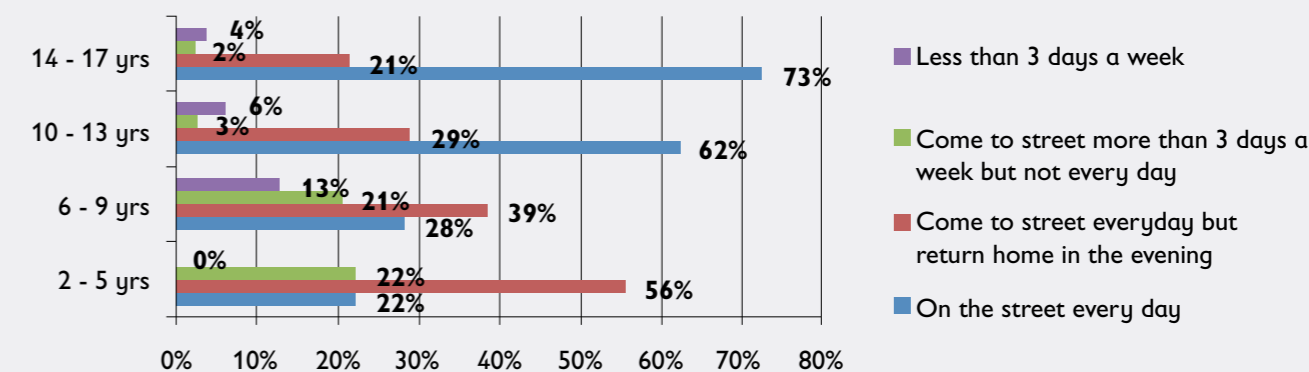
on the streets. 33% sleep at home, while 22% (mostly teenagers) stay in rented accommodation, which may suggest that many children are trying to get themselves off the streets. However, just 5% come to the streets less than three days a week. Older children can spend every day on the streets without (necessarily) returning home, younger children spend the same amount of time on the streets but return home in the evening; returning home tends to become less frequent as children get older (Figure 28). This reinforces the need for interventions at an early age to reunify children with family members.

Figure 27: Number of days spent on the streets per week by district



The majority of children in Eldoret have been interacting with the streets for two years or less, however, a significant number of children experience longer exposure with one quarter of children having spent three to five years interacting with the streets and almost one in ten children have been connected with the streets for more than eight years.

Figure 28: Eldoret: Where children spend most of their time



3.3.5 Some siblings are more prone to connect with the streets

Children connected to the streets frequently have siblings who remain at home. What drives one child and not another is not absolutely clear, but it appears to be highly child-specific (Figure 29). In some cases, older children will be the first to connect but may initiate younger siblings as they become more accustomed. Importantly, in Eldoret many children still have connections with their families, which can be useful in developing durable solutions.

Girls in the four towns are less likely to sleep on the streets than boys because of increased risks of sexual violence and exploitation (although boys also face this risk). It is also less socially acceptable for girls to be away from home and they are often more active at home with chores and caring for siblings or relatives. Of the children in the streets with sisters who were asked where these sisters were, just 4% said they were directly in the streets and dumpsites and 38% of sisters were going to school. Most sisters (56%) were at home with guardians or other relatives. Thus, girls may perceive the domestic factors that caused boys to leave home to be 'preferable' to the risks a girl would face in the streets. While this suggests that the risks posed in the streets may be higher for girls, it also suggests that many girls remain in potentially abusive or harmful family situations. **Programming addressing the needs of children connected to the streets should therefore consider all children within a family.**

However, 15% of sisters were working in bars, hotels, farms, as house helps or in the market – highlighting the invisible nature of girls who may be connected to the streets and at risk of exploitation as well as exposure to a more permanent street life, who may not easily be picked up by structures and programmes aimed at helping children connected to the streets.

Figure 29:

FACTORS THAT HELP DETERMINE WHICH SIBLINGS JOIN THE STREETS

- Gender
- Age
- Degree of desperation
- Social acceptability
- Level of independence
- Social exposure
- Degree of risk

3.4 Street Life: Individual and group identities

IN BRIEF:

- **Children become invisible as individuals and as children.** They join bases and develop group identities for protection and survival, also leading to exploitation and violence.
- **Family circumstances affect children's experience of the streets.** Few children are from families with stable care arrangements with both original parents and many see themselves or one another as their main carers. Child-headed families are also a reality on the streets.
- **Survival strategies are often dangerous,** harmful and exploitative.
- **Key unmet needs** identified by children were food, education and love.

The streets comprise a world on its own time, with its own rules, interlinked by constantly changing networks of children on the move.

3.4.1 Children become invisible

When a child becomes a "Chokora" (street child), he joins a world that operates visibly in and around the industrial and commercial heart of the major towns (Figure 30). Yet he becomes estranged from the bustle that continues around him and denied the rights afforded to other children. One NGO director who used to be connected to the streets described having felt like "a brick on the pavement".⁵² The public can be brutal and intolerant towards children connected to the streets, identifying with them first as criminals, not children. Junior⁵³ told researchers that members of the public had cut off his hand following accusations of theft. The stigma that many Kenyans associate with "Chokora" makes it difficult for some children to imagine going home or ever joining the formal sector.

Figure 30:

CASE STUDY - INVISIBLE

"If there were animals like cows in town, the police would be in trouble, but since they are human beings, no one bats an eye"

- Boy living in the street

Children often lose their individual identity as they increasingly connect with the streets. Close to half of all children on the streets do not have any registration documents and an additional quarter didn't know if they do, suggesting that most children do not have access to them even if they exist. In Eldoret, 88% of children have no documentation; those who had documentation are most likely to have a health card.

⁵² Interview with Key Informant, Eldoret, August 2011

⁵³ Not his real name

Not having identification is problematic for children because it is required for school registration, and to know a child's age (e.g. to determine eligibility for support from the Children's Department). These documents are also important for getting an ID card once the child turns 18, both to prevent police arrest and to access employment opportunities.

Storing or keeping anything of value in the streets is extremely difficult due to the lack of privacy. Young people who manage to move off the streets described the lengths to which they went to save money safely such as digging it into the ground every day, or entrusting it to local shop owners.

Children often choose to remain hidden to avoid abuse from the public or police, developing rhythms such as sleeping during the day in order to be able to run and hide during police round-ups or other dangers associated with the dark. 'Voluntary' invisibility has many side effects. Unaccompanied children rarely have good health-seeking behaviour (just 17% of children have health cards), and trying not to be identified, in addition to costs of registration, consultation, tests and medication at most health facilities, means **many children do not access healthcare at all.**

3.4.2 'We protect ourselves': Street Bases

Children do not rely on external protection. In reality, six out of every ten children rely primarily on themselves for protection (Figure 31).

In all five research locations, children organize themselves into strong sub-cultures that build group identities and provide protection in the streets. Those sleeping at home circulate as small groups based on where they are from or the school they frequent. Those who sometimes or always sleep on the streets (close to half of all children) join 'bases' or 'barracks'. The bases are a structured system of gangs that control specific geographical territories in towns and have strong internal hierarchies and codes of acceptability. Bases can also be formed along other identity lines such as IDPs, ethnic groups, or age. Bases develop around nodes of opportunity like supermarkets, railway stations, bus ranks, or straddling dumpsites, on which the children eat, scavenge, play, sleep and even raise rabbits to generate income.

Emulating military discipline and hierarchy, each base is led by a 'commander' and sometimes several deputies. Commanders are usually aged between 17 and 33, nine out of ten are male, and have usually spent about ten years on the streets. They can play a protective and also exploitative or harmful role in the base and their word is law. Commanders see themselves predominantly as protectors but also as discipliners, providers

Figure 31: Who children perceive to be their protector

Self	61%
Other children	20%
Guardian/parents	17%
Police	2%
Base commanders	2%
Others	1%
Children's Department	1%
NGOs	1%



Picture 5: Boy at matatu rank

and role models to the children in their 'charge'. For example, in Nakuru, one street family (girl and boy who had a baby) were forced to eat a cooked cat's head and a small bag of salt by one of the base commanders as a form of punishment. Some commanders supply children with glue or cannabis for a fee, or collect money from them to pay for a child who is sick or in police custody or for 'rent' to sleep in the base. Children sleeping on the streets struggle to

survive long periods if they are not linked to a base: ejection from one base requires rapid integration into another.

3.4.3 Girls experience living in the streets differently

Girls are often less visible or on the streets' peripheries: in markets, collecting charcoal or wood for cooking, or working in the bars and clubs at night as sex workers. Most girls who spend time on the streets go home at night. (Phase I of the study concludes the same findings). A girl who joins a base to sleep is expected, or coerced, to have a 'boyfriend' for her protection and older boys or base commanders may have several girlfriends. Girls are fiercely protected from being taken off the streets by the boys, arguably because of the sexual services they provide the boys individually or in groups in exchange for food, money and protection. Access to contraception and family planning is difficult, unsafe abortions of pregnant children take place, and attitudes by many children towards contraception are problematic (Figure 32). Some children allegedly re-use condoms found on the street, or use them "to have sex with drunk ladies while they're lying down."⁵⁴ Others don't like the feeling of wearing them; as one child said: "you don't eat a sweet with its wrapper on".⁵⁵

Figure 32: CASE STUDIES

Grace (aged about 17) gave birth to her first child by the dumpsite helped by her friends. She recently discovered she is HIV positive and is pregnant with her second child.

Milka (unsure of age) was teased about being four months pregnant. She had an unsafe abortion, following which she was admitted to hospital.

⁵⁴ Validation workshop with children in Nakuru, December 2011
⁵⁵ Validation workshop with children in Naivasha, December 2011

3.4.4 Survival activities

Most children come to the streets to do odd jobs (57%) such as carrying people’s luggage in the markets, hawking vegetables on the roads for a commission, working as parking attendants at matatu (minibus) ranks or going from house to house washing bedding or clothing. They may also come to scavenge for materials (54%) such as scrap metal and plastic bottles which they sell to brokers by the kilo. This can lead children to steal public property including man-hole covers and fencing, which in turn leads to violent police round-ups. Almost one third of all children who come to the streets said they come for food handouts. This is significant as it suggests that despite Children’s Department guidelines that try to prevent it, street feeding continues, luring rather than discouraging children to join the streets. Almost one in four children comes to beg and 12% said that their parents or caregivers provide some food, contributing to their survival safety net. A small number said that they survived by stealing, selling glue and sex work. It is likely that these taboo subjects are under-reflected as many children would not be willing to admit this to a stranger (Figure 33).

Exploitation of children connected to the streets is high, lacking adequate checks or prevention mechanisms. Children in Maai-Mahiu, Naivasha do back-breaking work in the quarry, while others peddle drugs for organised cartels, putting themselves at risk of arrest or addiction.

Figure 33: CASE STUDY

Charity (aged 10 or 11) lives permanently on the streets and has unprotected sex with boys on the streets as young as eight years old, as well with the watchmen. She charges 5-10 shillings (approx 7-10 pence) per time, or provides sex in exchange for scrap metal. She says she enjoys the attention and they encourage her to stay in the streets, but sometimes they run away without paying her.

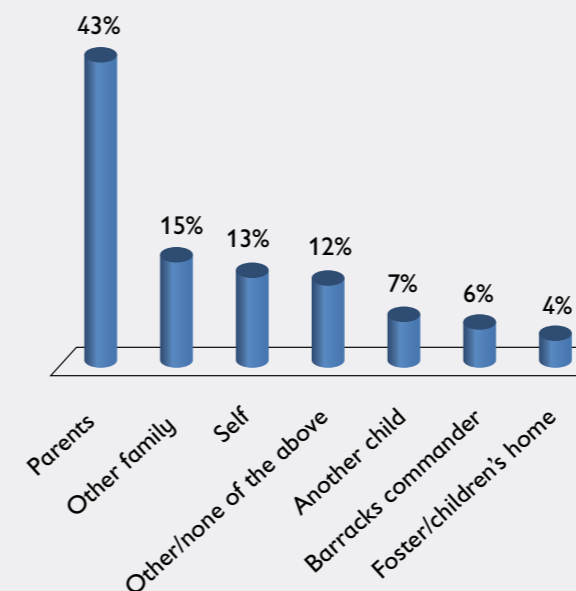
In Eldoret, children engage in similar activities as elsewhere in Rift Valley towns. Teenagers (aged 14–17) engage more in casual labour than younger children (aged 10 – 13) who mostly beg, suggesting that older children are likely to develop more diverse and potentially risky coping mechanisms when on the streets.

Key survival strategies in the street across all towns include sniffing glue or petrol (in Eldoret, 18% of children reported taking drugs), smoking, or taking hard drugs to numb hunger (one seven-year old boy smoked throughout his interview). Initiation onto glue can be instrumental in the transition to a child sleeping full-time in the streets, and poses a major barrier in children’s own attempts to leave the streets and reintegrate back into family, community or school.

3.4.5 Care arrangements

Approximately one in every seven girls and boys (15%) take care of their or others’ children on the streets. Thus, child-headed families survive in the streets of the major towns in highly risky environments without external support.

Figure 34: Who takes care of children connected to the streets



Well over half of all children connected to the streets are cared for by their parent(s) or other family members (Figure 34). Children under the care of their parents (43%) spend fewer days on the streets than others. Importantly, a significant number of children consider themselves to be their own carer, particularly those children who sleep full time in the streets. Children who sometimes or always sleep on the streets are not generally with an official guardian, unless their families also sleep in the streets (the case for 4% of children interviewed). Children sleeping on the streets are far more likely to perceive their barracks commander, themselves, or other children as their primary carer (44%), with only a quarter identifying their parents as their carer.

Just 27% of children are from homes where both parents are still living together and 22% are orphans, where both parents have died. Therefore death, family disintegration or the introduction of step-parents and alternative care arrangements can significantly affect a child’s likelihood of connecting with the streets.

3.4.6 Unmet needs identified by children

Interestingly, care & shelter rarely features as a child’s single biggest need – in fact it was mentioned almost seven times less often than education. The single biggest need is food (39%), followed closely by education (34%). Tellingly, the third single biggest unmet need is love.

Children’s needs more generally revealed that non-food items such as clothes and bedding are major challenges, as is access to healthcare (Figure 35).

Family reunification is not a high priority for most children. Family breakdown may go some way to explain why many children do not want to go home to families which are no longer made up of their original parents. It may also be that the more time a child spends on the street, the more the base substitutes, even becomes, family.⁵⁶

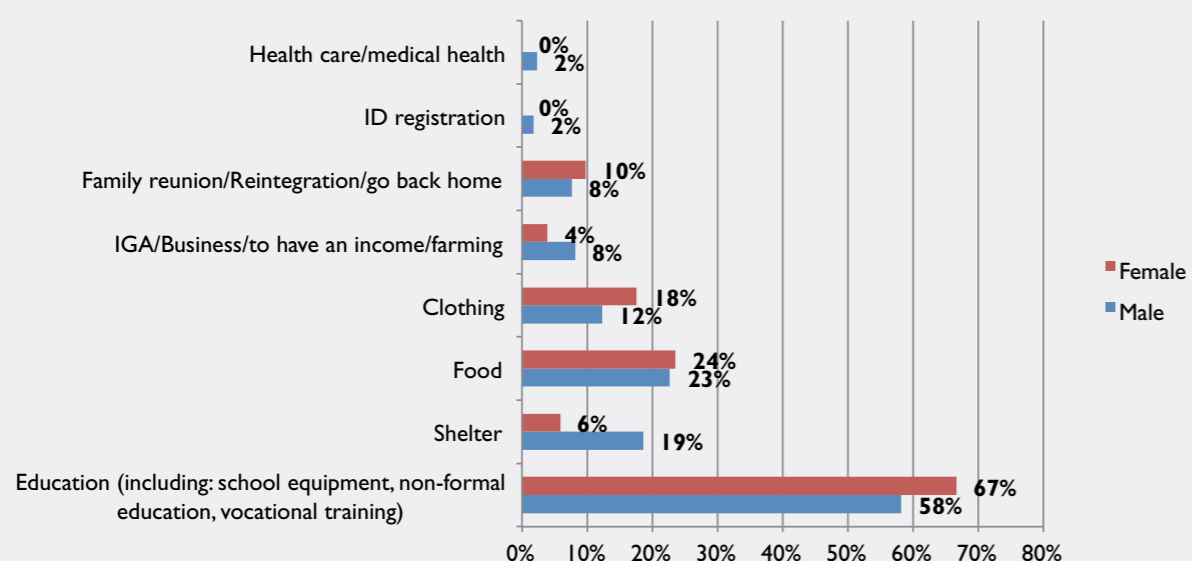
In Eldoret, most children, especially girls identified education as the biggest priority, and there are significant gender differences in prioritising other key needs (Figure 36).

Figure 35: All unmet needs

Food	56%
Education	40%
Non-food items	35%
Love	24%
Healthcare	22%
Emotional support	12%
Safety & security	12%
Care and shelter (foster/home)	8%
None of the above	6%
Others	2%
Family re-unification	2%
Rehabilitation (from drugs etc)	1%
Day centre	1%

⁵⁶ See section 3.6 on family reunification for more detail

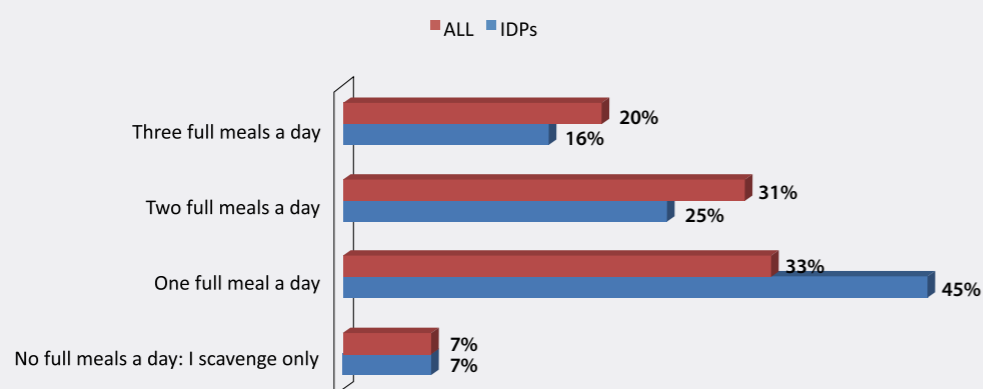
Figure 36: Eldoret: Children’s perceptions of needs



3.4.7 Access to food

Children tend to eat one full meal a day, scavenging in between. For some, this meal is at home, but for many it is by taking advantage of food handouts, buying food with money earned, or begging. Just one in five children eat three meals a day and 7% of children survive purely by scavenging (Figure 37).

Figure 37: Number of meals eaten per day – IDPs & all children



Almost half of all IDPs eat only one meal a day, and are less likely than the general population of children to have two or three meals a day. Some of the food that the children eat may be rotten or have little nutritional value. One research team found a group of boys sitting around their fire cooking 15 chicken heads they had found in the dumpsite.

3.4.8 Emotional wellbeing

Many children (41%) said they required emotional support to talk about their experiences leaving home and their situation on the streets. Play, spiritual worship and expression is often limited in the streets, and children described that adults rarely afford them the time or respect to share their experiences or to contribute to decisions.

Children’s own social networks become their strongest emotional support, which is why taking children off the streets can be difficult for the child - separation from another ‘family’. The child is frequently drawn back to the streets to be with friends, the people who recognize them as human beings.

3.5 Risks to children on the streets

IN BRIEF

- Violence, particularly police round-ups are children’s biggest fear and a regular reality.
- Girls face specific risks and are difficult to find because they often engage with the street’s periphery.
- Girls and Boys are at risk of sexual exploitation, which is hidden and can involve unprotected sex.
- Brutal violence can often lead to death.
- Children prefer not to report abuse and have little awareness of the government departments mandated with their protection.

Children are afraid of many things on the streets, reflecting the risky nature of interacting with street environments. However, they were most frequently linked to various forms of violence (Figure 38). Some of these fears are elaborated below.

3.5.1 Police brutality

Children’s greatest fear is being arrested by the police and municipal authorities, who conduct regular violent round-ups of children, and whose whips and beatings, have caused some children to be hospitalised. As one municipal enforcement staff described it, they see themselves as sweeping up a situation that other government departments have failed to solve.⁵⁷ Almost one third of all children interviewed have been rounded up at least once by the authorities - some as many as five times. However, they return to the streets because the reasons they came to the streets in the first place are not addressed. Nakuru, Naivasha and Kitale experienced police round-ups during data collection, following which some, mainly older children were sent to remand homes. Police use municipal ‘general nuisance’

Figure 38: What children fear in the streets

Health	
Getting sick	60%
Contracting HIV	37%
Dying on the streets	32%
Violence	
Fights	56%
Sexual violence	32%
Other street children	33%
Mob justice	30%
Barracks commanders	19%
Recruitment into armed gangs	9%
Accidents	
Traffic	56%
Fire	47%
Drowning	10%
Law enforcement	
Police	72%
Being arrested	52%
Council askaris	31%
Prison	20%
Juvenile homes	16%
Watchmen	11%
Others	1%

⁵⁷ Interview with representative from Naivasha Municipality, Naivasha, September 2011

by-laws or enforcement of the Children’s Act on compulsory education to legitimise their operations. In Nakuru alone, police arrest approximately 80 children per month (95% boys).⁵⁸

3.5.2 Physical and sexual violence and exploitation

Other than the children themselves, key informants also identified physical and sexual violence as some of the biggest risks facing girls and boys connected to the streets. It was difficult to verify actual figures for incidents of violence due to lack of reporting and the survey did not directly ask about experiences of such violence for ethical reasons. However, children’s fears corroborate key informants perspectives and referral cases during the research (Figure 39). Researchers also highlighted various anecdotal accounts of:

- Sexual exploitation and rape of girls by watchmen and *bodaboda* (bike and motor-bike taxi drivers). Specific locations were identified as particularly high risk such as a forest on the outskirts of Molo where men have been known to lure girls with sweets and then rape them. The use of ‘tembe’ or date rape tablets to drug girls was also cited by organisations working with children.
- Rape of boys particularly by older boys and youth living in the streets.

Physical violence such as beating, burning, amputation, and the use of objects such as bottles, whips or knives can be extremely brutal in the streets, potentially causing permanent damage, mental or physical disabilities or even death.

Figure 39:

CASE STUDY:TYPICAL EMERGENCY CASES REFERRED DURING DATA COLLECTION

- Two badly beaten boys in Nakuru were taken by base commander to hospital. One of the boys is now blind in one eye from shards of a broken glass bottle.
- Girl was knocked down by a vehicle.
- 3-month old boy had a high fever and chest infection.
- Boy had pneumonia.
- Girl had a broken leg with a septic bandage.
- Boy was severely burnt on both legs and feet from being thrown into a fire.

3.5.3 Accidents and death

Exposure to traffic, unsafe buildings and dump environments poses major risks to children’s survival, particularly when considered alongside the dulled awareness of children taking drugs. One hospital administrator described the case of ten year old Vincent⁵⁹ who was allegedly electrocuted by a live wire while scavenging for food, and Humphrey⁶⁰, 12, who was admitted to hospital after his foot was cut off by a train and returned to the streets, after a lengthy hospital stay. Wanting or having little choice but to return to the streets after medical support

58 Interview with a Public Prosecutor, Municipal Council, Nakuru September 2011
 59 Not his real name
 60 Not his real name



Picture 6: Girl during FGD

can increase children’s danger of infection and reduce effective healing. Margaret⁶¹, 11, who developed a fistula as a result of rape refused to be placed into rehabilitation after she received medical care.⁶²

Aware of the risks of being hit by traffic, illness, or beatings leading to death, and unable to pay the burial costs, some children reported joining churches as ‘insurance’ where the burial is provided by the church.

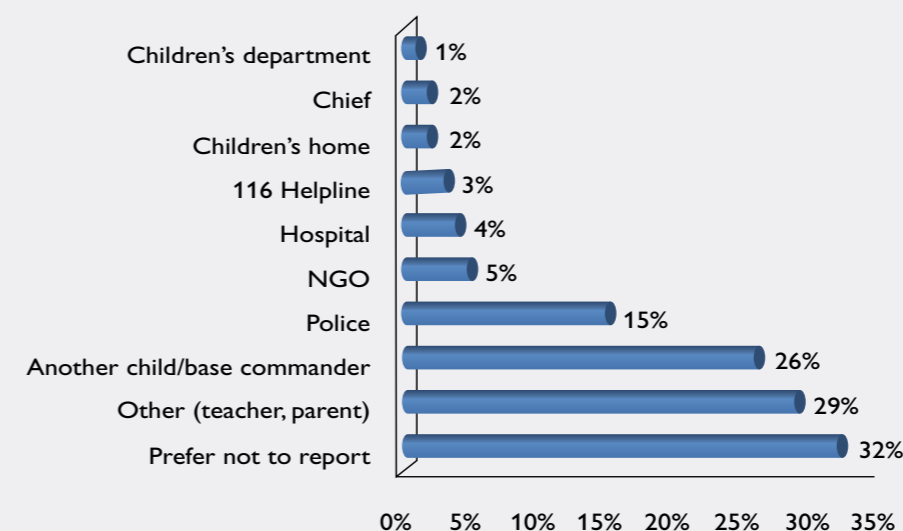
It is impossible to know exact mortality figures since few carry identity documents and the fear of registering a death; children described burying others anonymously in pre-dug council graves. Invisibility in life remains unregistered at death.

According to one base commander, he has helped to bury six children and 19 adults in Nakuru between 2010 and 2011. Base commanders believe such deaths are often caused by internal bleeding due to beatings by police, the public or other children/youth in the streets. One recent death was 13-year-old Francis⁶³ who was badly beaten up and subsequently died several days before the research took place.

3.5.4 Reporting abuse

Reporting abuse is crucial to protect the child from further harm, prevent impunity and bring about justice. However, if faced with a situation of abuse, **the most common response for children connected to**

Figure 40: To whom children would report abuse



the streets is not to report at all (Figure 40). Indeed, if the child does tell someone, it is most likely to be other children, their barracks commander, a teacher or parent. Only 15% of children said they would report it to the police. Indeed, in Eldoret where children were asked if they had accessed police

61 Not her real name
 62 Interviews with medical professionals in Kitale and Nakuru, September 2011
 63 Not his real name

services, just 2% had made use of such services. This is not surprising, when we consider that children do not feel protected, but targeted, by the police. Furthermore, several examples were given where police refused to respond to children’s reports of abuse, due to attitudes that the child is lying or a thief.⁶⁴ Indeed, one child who tried to report the killing of the 13-year old Francis in Naivasha told research teams he was not asked to give a statement or given any form of protection and was turned away from the station.

Hardly any children would report to an NGO or a hospital (however, this was not the case in Eldoret, where 60% said they would report to a children’s home or centre, possibly suggesting more proactive/accessible reporting mechanisms than in the other locations covered). Just 1% of children said they would report to the Children’s Department, which is legally mandated with their protection, suggesting that: either **children have no knowledge of the Children’s Department**, or they do not recognise it as providing such protection.

3.6 Coming off the streets

IN BRIEF:

- **Family reunification efforts have often been ineffective**, leading many children to return to the streets because the root causes for why they left home were not addressed and little time was given to prepare the child or family.
- **Many teenagers** living in the streets do not want reunification or to live in a home: they **want to live in independent accommodation** with their peers. No interventions currently recognize this need.

All children have hopes and plans for their futures; children connected to the streets are no exception. Children in the streets hope to be teachers, carpenters, bus drivers, pastors, or want to go to university.⁶⁵ However, there is a big gap between their current reality and who they want to be. Children were unanimous in their assertion that **the single most effective bridge to make their dreams a reality is by providing the opportunity to stay in, or go back to school**. For older children and youth, it is **skills training and support to start up a business** or get a job.

Spontaneous ‘rehabilitation’ or getting oneself off the streets is a difficult process but older youth described the painstaking efforts they went to without the help of others in order to move back into society. This often involves huge self-discipline to stop sniffing glue, and gradually saving enough money to rent a place with friends. The motivation, frequently, was when a boy made a girl pregnant and they got ‘married’. Some children do get external help – particularly with family reunifications. However, these are not always effective.

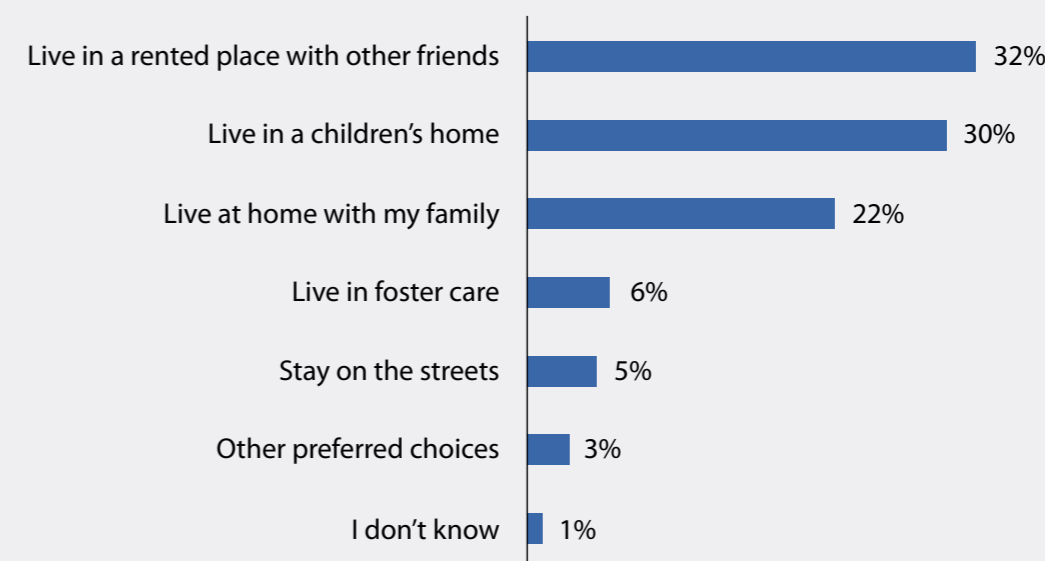
3.6.1 Where children want to live

The most common living situation that children not living at home would prefer is an option which no organisations currently support, living in a rented place with friends (Figure 41). The majority of those wanting to live in rented accommodation are teenagers aged around 14-15, but range between age nine and 17. Teenagers sleeping on the streets between ages 13 and 17 are more likely to want to live in a children’s home than at home with their families (though they are often not aware of the realities of such homes), whereas children aged 12 and under generally want to live at home or in a children’s home equally.

Children’s home/institution-based or independent care arrangements come with potential risks to children and major challenges to service providers, particularly in terms of monitoring and supervision. All care-related decisions must be made in the best interests of the child in order to prevent potential abuse within institutions, or neglect or exploitation in group housing. **Monitored and supervised independent/supported living and alternative family-based care, such as foster care, need to be explored further as possible options for children who are no longer willing or able to return home.**

More than one in five children sleeping in the streets would like to live with their families but numerous factors force them back to the streets. Over half of all IDPs sleeping on the streets want to live at home with their families and just 10% want to live in rented accommodation suggesting that **IDP children on the streets may be less entrenched in street life and more prepared to be reintegrated to their families than the general child population in the streets.**

Figure 41: Living situation preferred by children not living at home



⁶⁴ Interview with human rights officer, Kitale September 2011
⁶⁵ Validation Workshops with children in Nakuru and Naivasha, December 2011

3.6.2 Family reunification

More than one in five children interviewed has been reunified with their families at least once; however, these children are now back on the streets. Of these, 28% had been reunified between two and five times, and 4% of children said that they had been reunified ten times.

This suggests that current reunification efforts are not appropriate to the children's actual needs. As detailed above, children may not want to go home. Furthermore, without addressing the food insecurity or abuse which drove most children to leave home, the reunification attempt does more harm than good – eroding trust and placing tremendous stress on children themselves.

Finally, in cases where children do not want to go home – particularly older children, it is important to explore alternative options and how best to support both child and family to be able to make safe decisions about their independence and survival (Figure 42).

Figure 42:

CASE STUDY

Silvanos, 15, was displaced with his family during PEV and began going to the streets occasionally while he was in the camp. When his mother was resettled and his father could only pay the school fees of his younger siblings, he decided he could survive better on the streets than at the new house. Silvanos maintains close links with his family, and was proud the day he earned enough money from selling scrap metal to buy his mother a sheep. Silvanos' aim is to be a mechanic.

4. Findings: A Critique of the Child Protection System

IN BRIEF:

- **No single government department has taken leadership** of the issue and while coordination exists, it remains weak. The Children’s Department must develop a common strategy involving all departments & organisations.
- **Criminalization of children or parents is not an effective strategy:** parents require support in their efforts to prevent and respond to children connecting with the streets. Children require reintegration into society.
- **Major opportunities exist** in the urban areas because all the services required exist. These must be made accessible and scaled up.
- **Community mobilization requires support and scale-up**, such as initiatives by youth who used to be connected with the streets.
- **Humanitarian responses have been short-lived and remain unfinished.** The IDP crisis needs urgent resolution.
- **Protection initiatives** have traditionally focused on institutionalization and reactive programming. A shift is needed towards a strategic **multi-sectoral approach focusing on root causes** and transitioning children into appropriate, sustainable situations.

The ecological model used by many international organisations and governments in conceptualising child protection systems helps us to understand different actors’ responsibilities towards fulfilling children’s rights – particularly the immediate family, community, civil society and NGOs, and particularly the Government of Kenya (Figure 43). Some of these actors will be examined in the following sections.

4.1 Government responsibility

4.1.1 Legal responsibilities

The Children’s Department has a legal obligation to protect children. Numerous other departments have roles to play; however, they frequently have overlapping mandates and budgets. These include the Police, Municipal/Local Government, Justice, Youth & Sports, Education, Home Affairs and Special Programmes, among others. The Government of Kenya has **no overarching strategy**

Figure 43: Ecological Model



or policy on the issue of children connected to the streets – though they would be covered under the more general policy that operationalises the Children’s Act, as well as the IDP Policy, if passed. However, none of these set out a specific approach to take with this complex category of children. Consequently, responses tend to be knee-jerk reactions often involving the criminalization of children or their parents, rather than pro-active prevention and support. Such responses, lacking coherence and vision, have led to ineffective results and frequent departmental tensions (Figure 44). Many people, particularly children, wonder how the money was spent.

Figure 44:

OKOA MTOTO: CHILD HAVEN OR WHITE ELEPHANT?

Okoa Mtoto was a child support centre commissioned by the Nakuru District Area Advisory Council, in collaboration with the Children’s Department and Local Government. The building was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and once ready, was operated by Local Government with between a 3.6m and 20m KSH budget (figures from various key informants differed). In 2011 it was turned into a small residential home. It has not been registered with Children’s Department, and according to a PWG member, incidents of rape against the boys have taken place there. When visited, the only services provided by the centre were food and a bed. The 17 children, one as young as seven, all requested to be taken to school. This home is symbolic of the lack of expertise by some departments to tackle children’s issues and the frictions between government departments, involving regular threats to close it down and orders to remove children from the premises.

4.1.2 Coordination and capacity

The Children’s Department, within the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, is undergoing a rapid scale-up in operations, increasing its District Children’s Officers and Volunteer Children’s Officers in Rift Valley districts. The Children’s Department has a strong, effective working relationship with Department of Justice, particularly through the Children’s Courts. However, with little funding, the department mostly conducts referrals. Handing responsibility on to civil society organisations, it has no operational presence other than running a rescue centre in Nakuru and is not known or ever seen on the streets by children. This complete lack of outreach has placed enormous limits on the effectiveness of the department in fulfilling its mandate to reach, identify and protect all children connected to the streets.

However, the Department plans to establish four new Child Protection Centres country-wide, including one in Nakuru where construction has begun, which is very promising. These will require appropriate, integrated services to be effective. **The Children’s Department requires increased operational capacity** to manage these centres, as well as its rehabilitation programmes, to scale up effective family reunifications in an

emergency, to establish a rehabilitation system and to conduct comprehensive follow-up of children placed in care.



Picture 7: Children searching for food

Local Government, in contrast, has the operational capacity and its own funding through the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund, but almost no child protection expertise at the provincial or local level, where decisions must be taken subject to full municipal council approval, whose members lack an understanding of protection issues. The municipal council's main focus is supporting remand and rehabilitation facilities for children in conflict with the law, rather than welfare institutions; however, the two are often not separated. The Municipality runs the Eldoret Child Protection Centre (CPC) and Okoa Mtoto children's home in Nakuru among others, which have limited effectiveness and appropriateness, according to children who have accessed these services. For example, while 44% of children interviewed in Eldoret had accessed the CPC, CPC services were rated by the children to be among the least effective services available.

Adversely, the municipal council also provides *askaris*, municipal security personnel, to work alongside the police in conducting the violent round-ups of children who fill up their centres.

Local government runs the National Youth Service (NYS) with Ministry of Youth & Sports, where thousands of children and youth used to be recruited from the streets into the programme, allegedly causing more children to join the streets in the hope of being taken for NYS. However, on completion of the programme many youth

ended up back on the streets, only more militarized, due to the military nature of the training combined with the lack of start-up support in turning their skills into a business.⁶⁶ The two ministries are trying to revive a similar programme - this requires further analysis.

Police: have designated Child Protection Units (CPUs) at Police stations in Nakuru and Eldoret and non-operational CPUs in Naivasha and Kitale (none in Molo), established with initial support from the Children's Department, Save the Children and private business. However, even the completed CPUs are barely operational, with few trained staff or realistic capacity to process children, especially several at once. Children are only incarcerated separately from adults where facilities are available. In practice this means children are placed together with adults undergoing civil cases or transferred long distances to child facilities. Furthermore, children described being kept in jail for months and only being told the charges once in the court room. One child described awaiting trial for years before eventually being released due to lack of evidence. He believed "the only way out of those cells is to accept whatever charges are against you."⁶⁷ Neither police nor council *askaris* who conduct the round-ups are given training in handling children. The violent round-ups are conducted with impunity because no child can report ill-treatment by police. Even service providers indicated fears of their services being threatened with closure if they tried to report police brutality.

Department of Home Affairs: runs rehabilitation centres for juveniles and young offenders. However, these are allegedly run like prisons with little 'rehabilitation' and children who are brought there for care and protection (not a crime) are frequently mixed in with offenders.⁶⁸

Coordination: the Government of Kenya controls the coordination of child protection activities and various coordination mechanisms have been set up, such as:

- **Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement (Eldoret & Nakuru):** co-chaired by Ministry of Justice and Local Government. Set up at the national and regional level as part of the UN Cluster system of sectoral coordination during PEV, this structure continues to meet once a month with a very large membership including both government and NGO representatives. However, meetings in Rift Valley are frequently late, long and ineffective, as few members have the adequate authority to make decisions. It is also unclear who will support it as UNHCR stops funding it in 2012.
- **Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement Sub-group on Child Protection (Nakuru & Eldoret)** Chaired by Provincial Children's Department. A sub-group of the above, this forum discusses specific operational issues, but little is followed up between meetings.
- **District Area Advisory Councils** chaired by District Children's Department. Meetings are long but address local operational issues, with many practitioners present (though lack of decision-making power

⁶⁶ Interview with young man who used to be connected with the streets who underwent NYS before returning to the streets, Nakuru October 2011

⁶⁷ Validation Workshop with children in Naivasha, December 2011

⁶⁸ Key Informant Interview with Remand Home Volunteer, Nakuru, September 2011

is a problem). The AACs have legitimacy, positioned within the government architecture, theoretically with a direct communication link with the National Council of Children’s Services, under the Children’s Department. However, it is unclear how effective ‘upward’ information flow is, particularly on policy-related issues. In reality, many people arrive late to meetings, in time for the ‘transport stipend’ given at the end.

4.1.3 The urban opportunity – Making existing services accessible

The current call to action by public and private sectors to respond to the situation of children connected to the streets comes at a point in Kenya’s economic and social development that offers enormous opportunities in urban areas. Much of the legal frameworks, policies, and infrastructure required to support children’s basic needs and re-integration exist, including:

- Children’s Act specifically protecting children’s rights
- An education policy that stipulates it must be free and compulsory
- Health facilities in all towns
- Schools in all towns
- Children’s Department for care and protection
- Children’s courts
- Child Protection Units at some Police Stations
- Birth registration and documentation facilities



Picture 8: Children receiving ink mark after interview by SC researcher

The key to the success of any strategy for children is to make all services **accessible** to children, using the policy and legal frameworks to hold responsible individuals accountable.

There are excellent examples of organisations and DCOs that managed to negotiate with inaccessible local services, to stop children from being sent home

from schools due to lack of payment (Lodwar and Molo) and to be given free healthcare at health facilities (in Eldoret). This advocacy should be replicated systematically within districts and on a national level.

4.2 Parental responsibility

4.2.1 Neglect and abuse

Government and NGO perceptions of children connected to the streets frequently blame parents for neglecting children, bad parenting and allowing them to leave home.⁶⁹ In reality, neglect is not one of the major reasons for children leaving home and some parents during FGDs described going to great lengths to retain their children at home, or regularly searching for them in the streets. This is particularly the case for food insecure families that children leave because parents are unable to provide for their most basic needs. Parents described this as disempowering because they can do little to stop children from going; others even encourage their children to get money or food in the streets to contribute to the family’s survival. This struggle is particularly the case in families where the breadwinner has a chronic illness or has died, or where the father is not present, which is frequently the case among children connected to the streets. Single mothers such as those working in Naivasha’s flower farms are rarely present for children at home (Figure 45). Such parents are often inaccurately accused of neglect, especially if they don’t report their child missing; aware of the violent police round-ups used to retrieve children, few parents are willing to report. Some parents are sent to jail, entrenching the effects of poverty and food insecurity and diminishing the possibility of economic self-sufficiency to provide for the children. Those children with parents incarcerated for neglect have less opportunity to return home, and often end up in remand homes, or back on the streets.

Where neglect is taking place, it must be correctly identified and taken to court, and the child found alternative care arrangements that are in the child’s best interests.

As discussed in the push factors, physical and sexual abuse, often linked to alcohol abuse, cause close to one quarter of all children to leave home. Abuse is extremely common in Kenya and the response requires far greater emphasis on child-friendly, safe reporting mechanisms and systematic prosecution of the perpetrators.

Figure 45:
NAIVASHA’S FLOWER FARM WAGES

The Labour Institutions Amendment Bill of 2011 sets the wage of a flower cutter at 435 KSH per day, lower than normal minimum wages. This is an improvement on previous bills, but is often not adhered to by flower farms. This year, the cost of the staple food ugali rose from 40-50 KSH per 2kg tin to between 120 and 150 KSH, and other food stuffs are also on the rise. Women tend to leave for work at around 4-5am, returning at 8pm. Women are employed up to the age of 40 and then allegedly often laid off for younger workers.

⁶⁹ As described from the Eldoret study in section 3.1

4.2.2 Parental mobilisation

Some parents have tried to mobilize as groups to help one another retrieve children in the streets or improve their livelihoods to retain their children at home. Some are linked to organisational initiatives; others have developed spontaneously, including one following a parent FGD for this study.⁷⁰ Such initiatives require support and encouragement.

4.3 Community, Civil Society and NGO Responsibility

Organisations and government departments frequently try to respond to children's needs through day centres, children's homes and reunifications with differing effectiveness.

4.3.1 Local community initiatives

Local religious, philanthropic and business communities as well as civil society initiatives have attempted to help children connected to the streets, recognizing that this is an issue affecting the whole community. Some of these have made a real difference to individuals on a small scale, supporting children through school, opening church doors for children to worship and be listened to, or safe-keeping children's savings to help them off the streets. Many young adults who used to live on the streets remain closely involved, acting as mentors and trying, with almost no support, training or resources, to help others make the transition (Figure 46).

Figure 46:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BASED ON EXPERIENCE

Zeph Owino used to live on the streets for several years until he was taken to a religious school by a pastor where he completed his education. He now does typing and computer jobs to support the 9 children he has helped to get off the streets, who he accommodates in his rented two-bedroom flat. He networks with whoever will listen and negotiates with schools to register the children, one of whom has just completed primary school with excellent grades.

However, many initiatives have also been short-sighted, unconnected and even harmful, such as street feeding mostly by Hindu and Christian groups. During the study some children were exasperated at being approached by outsiders yet again for information and pictures. Their perception is that many 'phantom' interventions exist because they never see results: one child in Kitale erased his nick name from the survey, saying "they are eating with my name."

4.3.2 Humanitarian responses

A humanitarian response was rapidly scaled up in Rift Valley in 2008 following PEV, with hundreds of organisations setting up programmes in all major sectors.

Robust efforts were made by a group of actors to rapidly identify, register and reunify children separated during PEV with their families. Identification of separated children took place in IDP camps, in CClIs and within affected communities. In total, 5,769 children were reunified, including many children who were returned from CClIs in Rift Valley, which were systematically visited. However, many of the thousands of separated children who were hastily placed into CClIs during PEV remained there, because these institutions made it difficult to remove the children and/or because families refused to take their children back, despite repeated family mediation efforts.

Some other humanitarian programmes were also successful: IDPs described how seeds and cash vouchers given by some agencies were very effective, allowing families to stop relying on handouts and re-start their lives.

However, emergency funding is short-term, and a rapid scale-down followed as funding dried up, leaving other families stranded in their tents with nothing.⁷¹ The transition to developmental programming was often inadequately planned and responses to critical areas of need such as food and shelter were often phased out rather than handed over to other actors, when the emergency, as experienced by ordinary Kenyans, was far from over. The clamor for durable solutions needs to become concrete action to guarantee recourse for the many remaining food-insecure IDPs whose needs were never fully met and who hang in limbo as another election looms.

Donors question whether the needs of the urban poor are a humanitarian concern at all.⁷² It remains to be seen whether the Kenyan Government, humanitarian organisations and donors will acknowledge that **food insecurity has become an emergency in itself, requiring a response in Rift Valley.**

'Minding the gap' between emergencies and development is a major lesson that humanitarian organisations need to re-learn periodically. The 2008 experience must inform emergency preparedness planning in 2012, considering the potential consequences for children joining the streets.

4.3.3 Long term child protection initiatives

Long-term child protection work is conducted by a plethora of organisations and government departments, involving significant resources which are rarely properly monitored.

70 FGD with Parents, Eldoret, October 2011

71 Interview with IDP Chairman of IDP camp in Molo, October 2011

72 Humanitarian Policy Group Working Paper (2011) *Sanctuary in the City? Urban Displacement and Vulnerability in Nairobi*

Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs) are often unregistered and over-subscribed, used as dumping grounds by government departments with no follow up. CCIs often operate with permanence rather than a 'transitional' approach that has individualized plans for children. After all, the vast majority of children connected to the streets are not orphans, and long-term institutionalisation is not encouraged by the Kenyan government or child development communities of practice globally.

Day centres offer services of varying effectiveness such as washing facilities, recreational activities and skills training, alongside free meals and sometimes informal education classes and referrals to medical and other services. These are a positive step in recognizing that feeding alone will not ensure the healthy development of a child connected to the streets, and that children require multi-sectoral care and support. Day centres maintain a 'temporary' approach by not being residential. However, they are often inadequately linked to effective referral systems and are only effective as long as they remain small-scale with a small case load of children to process.

Figure 47:

MODEL OF GOOD PRACTICE

The NGO Undugu has worked with children connected to the streets in Kenya for decades. Undugu developed the Association Model, which taps into street networks of long term street youth and youth who used to live on the streets to identify new arrivals for immediate referral before they become hardened to street life and drop out of school for too long.

Local day care and night care facilities (particularly for children of sex workers) often lack any monitoring and regulation: in Naivasha some allegedly give children drugs to make them sleep.⁷³

Organisations and individuals interacting with children daily are in the best position to identify appropriate strategies to respond to specific groups of children. Some excellent strategies have been developed by local organisations such as the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru's Accelerated Learning Programme to reintegrate children into school and Undugu's Association Model (Figure 47). These need to be explored in terms of appropriateness in specific locations and scaled up.

Initiatives are few and far between that tackle the broader issues of livelihoods support to families to reduce child protection issues, or that advocate for access to existing services and free education, or that provide rehabilitative education programmes.

⁷³ Expanded Child Protection Sub-group Workshop, Nakuru, December 2011

5. Conclusion



IN BRIEF

- **Emergencies (especially PEV, but also tribal clashes and also drought)** have caused large numbers of children to join the streets in Rift Valley.
- With proper planning and support, children resorting to connect with the streets **could be prevented**
- **IDP children connected to the streets remain in large numbers** and require specific recognition and support within durable solutions for all IDPs.
- **Emergency-affected children in the streets cannot be supported in isolation of the children driven to the streets by hunger and other poverty-related factors:** food insecurity is a chronic emergency that is the primary cause for children joining the streets today.

5.1 A preventable crisis

Children in Rift Valley join the streets due to crises – whether related to the external environment such as violence, displacement, drought, and food insecurity - or to the domestic environment such as abuse. Many of these factors could be prevented with:

- **Recognition** that displacement is ongoing as a result of chronic, and sometimes distant emergencies
- **Proper emergency planning** including prevention programming, surveillance of emergency indicators (tensions, nutrition, separation etc) and **sustained, child-conscious emergency responses**
- Post-emergency **implementation of systematic durable solutions for IDPs from PEV and other emergencies**, with exit strategies and sustainable support incorporated into programmes from the outset
- **Prevention and support to vulnerable families and communities** in the key geographical 'sending locations' from where the majority of children join the streets; and addressing the main 'push factors' including food insecurity and livelihoods, ensuring free education, and rapid response to cases of abuse

5.2 Massive double pronged, multisectoral approach needed

Many children came to the streets as a result of emergencies but become a part of another street-related emergency which puts their very survival and development at stake. Immediate or early action in a child's street trajectory can find durable solutions or even prevent this crisis, however those chances diminish and the cost of rehabilitating the child increases with every day that passes.

Thus, there is an **urgent need for a strategic review, quality improvement, and scale up of current emergency efforts** to help street-connected children who can return home in a sustainable, durable fashion, as well as those unable to go home, to find a solution that is in their best interests. Eradication of Rift Valley's street crisis requires a concurrent strategic, **multi-sectoral approach that addresses the root causes**.

This is achieved by **building strong child protection systems** that link directly into emergency planning and response, including making protection services accessible to children through centre-based and particularly outreach support; and rapid reunification or placement into appropriate family-based or other supported and monitored living arrangements of all children living on the streets; as well as a comprehensive referral system. Furthermore, it requires recognition that the **protection of children connected to the streets can only be tackled if addressed in concert with other sectors** – especially education, as well as livelihoods and skills development, food security and health, supporting children, youth and families.

Finally, **responses must be to scale** to address the fundamental root problems, recognizing current gaps particularly in the reintegration process. This must include government-backed initiatives such as province-wide education reintegration programmes or skills training, individualised case management of every child connected with the streets, and integrating families of children connected to the streets into national social support/cash transfer programmes. This requires concerted mobilization of government and civil society for adequate training, support and resources.

5.3 Departure from the status quo

The study has shown that the current reality of children connected to the streets is markedly different to the above ideal. The root causes of hunger, poverty, tribal tensions, unemployment, abuse and corruption among others build upon one another until a family snaps and is unable to retain one or several of its children. **The child in the streets becomes a physical symptom, an effigy of the desperation families feel** in the face of these problems.

Children step out of their traditional protection structures in order to survive. They take risks and decisions into their own hands, growing up fast and often losing formal education in exchange for a wholly different education on the streets. They are exposed to exploitation and violence, developing resourcefulness and engaging peer mechanisms for self-protection. Children's interactions with external government/civil society actors are limited at the street level. **Indeed, in the rare cases where actors come directly to children in the streets, actions are often ineffective and even harmful to children's survival and development.** These include the police, through violent round-ups and arrests, and religious well-wishers conducting street feeding. Few initiatives adequately listen to the specific needs of individual children or recognise the vastly diverse realities of different groups of children in the streets - their ways of engaging with the streets, their support, social and communication networks, their differing risks, and their hopes for the future.

Centre-based responses vary in effectiveness but are limited in size and reach. They may provide a variety of services such as food, washing facilities, basic healthcare, life skills or shelter and many provide much-needed

regular psychosocial support – a clearly recognised need by many children. However there is rarely any integrated strategy or long-term follow up of individual children and long-term funding is often uncertain. Dramatic scale-up of such activities in a more coherent manner, in conjunction with a massive drive for street outreach, could form the basis for children’s preparation for reintegration into society.

Children change as they grow up exposed to the streets and become progressively less able to reintegrate into formal schooling. Ironically, while they have shed the identity of a child, they are living in a state of extended limbo unable to ‘grow up’ to achieve the indicators of adulthood in Kenya – getting an identity card, joining the workforce, and building a family and home.

Ultimately, it remains to be seen whether robust leadership will emerge to tackle the existing IDP crisis, integrate and strengthen existing components of the child protection system and fully prepare for the events likely to follow the next elections, whose warning signs are already evident. If we are unable to act before this time, the streets will yet again provide a long-term ‘haven’ that more children will be seeking.

The legal custodians mandated with children’s protection, alongside the myriad essential community-based/ NGO service providers, must step up to the enormous challenge which children currently carry alone.

Department and organisations require concrete evidence to carry out actions and inform policy decisions and advocacy. This evidence is here, and must be shared and taken forward to improve the lives of children province-wide and country-wide.

The following section is a summary of many of the study’s findings, highlighting the multiple ways that we are failing to protect children connected to the streets, as stipulated in the Children’s Act of Kenya. This is compared against the needs that children themselves have highlighted. This tool provides a direct link to the recommendations.

5.4 Child rights summary – Failing children on the streets

In summary, the research highlights that **we are failing to protect children in the streets of Rift Valley**. When we look at the Kenya Children’s Act in light of this study, it is evident that many **children connected to the streets are denied almost every right afforded them under Kenyan Law:**⁷⁴

Child’s right under Kenyan law	Reality for children connected to the streets (based on study survey and FGDs)	What children say they need (based on study survey and FGDs)
All children have the right to life	The growth and development of the child is compromised and death is a real danger from violent injury, accidents or illness. Food is available in the streets, however it is often from rubbish bins or dumps and handouts draw more children into the streets without addressing needs beyond hunger.	To be protected from violence and death
Every child has the right not to be discriminated against	Children are regularly turned away from public places and treated differently in schools due to their residence or associations	To be recognised as a child and not treated differently
Every child has the right to live with and be cared for by parents, unless there is special reason for him to be separated from parents	Many children living on the streets have had no access to reunification support, or only access to ineffective support, which does not address the root causes for leaving home	To support parents to be able to care for them, and to respect and actively explore their choices of different supported care arrangements such as family-based care and rented supported living
Children have the right to receive the following from their parents and Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and religious education, including free basic education • Stay healthy 	Education is frequently denied or curtailed due to cost, stigma and lack of rehabilitation support. Children’s health and safety is compromised daily due to conditions on the streets. Access to water & sanitation facilities is extremely limited, denying them basic dignity. Access to healthcare facilities is limited by stigma, cost and fear of being identified	To be able to go back to school (at no cost) and have support to stay in school (with rehabilitation support where necessary) To have access to places of worship and religious leaders for advice and support To have access to free basic, non-discriminatory healthcare including family planning
Every child has the right to be protected from child labour and armed conflict	Children frequently survive through economic exploitation. Older children are at risk of recruitment into armed gangs	To be able to earn money safely in a way that still allows them to go to school, play etc. To also support their families with livelihoods.
Every child has a right to be protected from physical and psychological abuse and neglect	Children see themselves as their main protectors and violence is a daily reality. Neglect by the Government is a daily reality and abuse and violence is even caused by the authorities. Abuse is common amongst extended family or step parents.	To be protected from harm Police to stop violent round-ups To be loved by parents

74 Adapted from the Government of Kenya (2001) *Children’s Act*

Child's right under Kenyan law	Reality for children connected to the streets (based on study survey and FGDs)	What children say they need (based on study survey and FGDs)
Every child has the right to a name and nationality	Most children don't have or don't know if they have registration documents and many don't know their date of birth. Registration is not easily available	To be able to register for school and other services (including birth notification) To be able to get ID cards when turning 18
Every child who is disabled has the right to be treated with respect and to be given proper medical care, education and training free of charge when possible	Children with physical or mental disabilities face a double burden in the streets and are at heightened risk of abuse. Some disabilities were directly caused by children's exposure to the streets due to fights and violence against them.	To not be harmed and to be given the medical, care and education support they need
All children have the right to express an opinion, to be listened to, and participate in decisions that affect them.	Children connected to the streets are ignored or harassed and are rarely listened to in decisions affecting their lives	To have the chance to show who they are and that they have plans & hopes for the future To have support in making those plans and hopes a reality
Every child has a right to be protected from sexual abuse, sexual exploitation such as prostitution and exposure to obscene materials.	Sexual abuse of girls and boys is taking place at home, on the streets and in the bars. This is rarely reported to any authority. Children socialise by going to video shops showing pornographic material	Protection from sexual abuse and exploitation, access to treatment, child-friendly reporting mechanisms and support Access to alternative sources of livelihood
Children must be protected from torture, cruel punishment, inhuman treatment and unlawful arrest. If a child is arrested, the child must be kept apart from adults and the parents of the child notified.	Children are exposed to sometimes fatal mob justice by the public and one another. Police conduct government-sanctioned violent round-ups. Children are kept apart from adults only where facilities are available. Child cases can take months or even years to be heard. Children in custody for care & protection are often kept in remand homes with child criminals.	To be protected from mob justice and violent police round-ups. To not be jailed long periods without trial or information To be kept separate from child criminals and adults
Every female child shall be protected from early marriage, female circumcision and any cultural practice that affects the child in any way.	Girls are often 'married' to their boyfriends on the streets when they become pregnant.	Boys – to be circumcised as an essential rite of passage
Every child has a right to be protected from any use of drugs that are not allowed by the government.	Children have access to glue, marijuana and hard drugs, which they take as a survival strategy. Some children are exploited to sell drugs for dealers.	To be supported and given alternatives so that drugs are no longer necessary to survive
Every child has the right to leisure, play and recreation	Play is sporadic and often unsafe - between earning, begging, looking for food and school (if child is attending) amongst the traffic or on the dumpsites.	To have the time and space to play regularly without fear of arrest or abuse

6. Recommendations



IN BRIEF

1. Develop National & Provincial Strategies

- a. Include location-specific action plans

2. Leadership Responsibility from the Children's Department

- a. Increase financial and human capacity (budgets, training, staffing)
- b. Strengthen Child Protection Systems

3. Rapidly Scale up Child Reintegration & Protection Measures

- a. Conduct systematic registration and case management
- b. Provide family reintegration or alternative care for all, with support for children and families
- c. Expand alternative care options including alternative family-based care and independent or family-linked living for youth
- d. Deploy an outreach network of street educators to engage, identify and refer children
- e. Provide transition & rehabilitation centres and services including psychosocial preparation for reintegration
- f. Conduct child follow-up and monitoring of care situations

4. Target the Root Causes with Long-term Multi-sectoral Strategies

- a. Resolve the continuing IDP crisis and prepare for future emergencies in child-conscious way
- b. Enforce free education and zero tuition fees policy
- c. Provide livelihoods support to families and youth (cash support, skills development, food security)
- d. Prevent children joining the streets in sending locations
- e. Engage children directly in decision-making and finding solutions

The study has collected valuable information for planning humanitarian and longer-term responses in Kenya. Feedback following a series of briefings, which aimed to share information and gather recommendations, shows that the study has support for action from a broad range of stakeholders, including government ministries, children, and non-governmental actors.

The section below was developed during the briefings as general recommendations regarding children connected to the streets in Rift Valley Province. The first section has thematic/actor-specific recommendations, followed by two sections which apply to all actors (priority areas of need; and essential approaches). It is imperative that location-specific plans are developed to ensure context-appropriate interventions.

The recommendations reflect the inputs of many engaged child and adult stakeholders determined to take this forward in order to tackle the current crisis and its root causes.

6.1 Government of Kenya

6.1.1 Develop a clear strategy

- **Rift Valley Strategy on Children Connected to the Streets:** The Children's Department to lead the development of a Rift Valley strategy with key stakeholders in 2012, incorporating emergency preparedness plans and an integrated multi-sectoral approach, beginning with a strategy workshop and the development of activity plans engaging all major stakeholders. This should be made operational through a coordinated system of multiple actors, providing the sectoral areas needed in each location. This should lead to a national strategy for children connected to the streets.
- **Government 5 year Plan of Action & Children's Department Plan of Action:** ensure that specific attention is given to appropriate responses to children connected to the streets in these plans and clearly assigned leadership.
- **National strategy on Street Families:** local Government should work closely with the Children's Department to ensure integration with Children's Department's Plan of Action and Rift Valley Strategy.

6.1.2 Strengthen protection systems and leadership

- **Children's Department responsibility:** The Children's Department should fulfill its mandate as the primary department responsible and take decisive leadership and coordination on an integrated, inter-sectoral response, including resource prioritisation and developing operational alliances.
- **Support and training:** scale up financial resources, technical expertise, material support, staff recruitment, training and mentoring within government departments and in humanitarian/civil society organisations in order to improve current interventions and implement the recommendations.
- **Develop a common multi-sectoral referral system** with strong information management and regular referral follow-up: conduct regular, updated mapping of all service providers and regularly circulate information regarding updates to the referral system to all. This should also include establishing and coordinating systems to prevent harmful practices, such as coordinating the distribution of donations through schools, homes and centres to prevent street feeding.
- **Improve Children's Department's capacity to monitor,** support and supervise care situations and conduct child follow-up. All children referred to homes, health facilities, placed in school or reintegrated back home should receive regular proactive follow-up.
- **Enforce standards & registration of CCIs:** The Children's Department should systematically monitor and enforce registration and standards within CCIs, including admission criteria, living standards, recruitment of staff, reporting mechanisms etc.

- **Make existing protection services accessible especially through outreach:** The Children's department should engage more directly with children in the streets through outreach; and offer Birth/ID registration etc.
- **School and skills reintegration programme:** Department of Education with Children's Department should support or establish province-wide reintegration centres for the transition of children prior to school re-registration, or to support children/youth to set up their own businesses. This needs to be part of a comprehensive provision of support, including for example reunification and family support, or transition into foster care or independent/supported living.
- **Shift in Police Integration, Training & Strategy:**
 - Stop all police round-ups: use alternative non-violent methods such as outreach to access children to enforce compulsory education or their care and protection.
 - Integrate police fully into child protection initiatives, supporting Child Protection Units with adequate staff and expertise to be fully operational and improving child-friendly reporting mechanisms within the Police.
 - Systematically train all police who work with children in Child Law, child development and the appropriate handling of children.

6.1.3 Urgent action on IDP policy

- **IDP Policy:** (Ministry of Special Programmes) pass the IDP Policy. Push for rapid resolution to outstanding IDP crisis and preparedness planning for 2012, taking into account the impact of displacement and resettlement on children.

6.2 Development community

Further research and pilot studies are needed to determine the most effective approaches for supporting children to fulfill their aspirations, such as:

- Conduct a food security assessment in Rift Valley
- Understand the effectiveness & feasibility of alternative care options i.e. independent youth / group living or living nearby rather than with relatives and foster care.
- Understand the feasibility of including children connected to the streets as an OVC category, making families eligible for OVC cash support.
- Understand the feasibility and effectiveness of different forms of rehabilitation centres particularly for school reintegration.
- Understand the effectiveness and feasibility of long-term school feeding as a school-going incentive, as compared to alternative support options to parents or schools.
- Map the positive & negative coping mechanisms of IDP families and children which aim to keep children protected and off the streets

- Replicate the profiling study in other provinces to understand the nature and scale of the issue elsewhere in Kenya, as well as the context-specific responses required.

6.3 Humanitarian community

6.3.1 Emergency preparedness planning

- Take the findings of this study into account to develop appropriate preparedness & response plans for the next elections and other emergencies including drought, flooding, food insecurity, urban evictions and ethnic clashes.
- Recognise the high likelihood of pre- and post-election violence, as well as child displacement and separation in emergency-related scenario mapping/plans.
- Ensure proper planning of humanitarian responses that recognises girls' and boys' specific needs in any humanitarian response.

6.3.2 Emergency response and withdrawal

- Ensure that child-specific needs are met during emergencies including prevention of separation, reunification, support to leave the street, and child-specific needs in camps.
- Conduct responsible withdrawal of aid with exit strategies incorporated into programming and a protection focus linked to development programming.

6.4 Priority areas of need relevant to all actors

6.4.1 Scale up effective reintegration and protection measures

- **Scale up legal registration and case management** for all children connected to the streets, with the necessary facilities to process large numbers of children.
- **Conduct family tracing, reintegration and alternative care arrangements:** transition all children currently living on the streets into durable situations through family reintegration or alternative care for those unable or unwilling to return home. Strategic and integrated, it should include psychosocial preparation for return and mobilization of adequate, ongoing support for children and their families.
- **Expand options for alternative care:** including a drive for family-based alternative care such as foster care and adoption. Also establish options for youth and teenagers to live independently with peer/professional support, or near (but not with) relatives, helping to gradually restore links with relatives in a manner acceptable to all involved.⁷⁵ This needs further study and strong Children's Department monitoring.
- **Deploy an outreach network of street educators** (particularly youth who used to be connected to the streets, with the right training and support) to engage, identify and refer children through street-based activities such as non-formal education, theatre, music, sports, skills development etc.

⁷⁵ Examples exist where this has worked such as in Rwanda

- **Expand transition & rehabilitation centres and services** where children can access protection services, preparation for reintegration into education and referral by case workers, alongside somewhere safe to play, to receive emotional support, wash, have a meal etc. These could also be hubs for parents to mobilise and receive support.
- **Use Charitable Children's Institutions only as a transition phase** (last resort) as part of a clearly developed longer-term plan for each child, ensuring adequate time is dedicated to preparing families for reunification, or youth for alternative care/living situations.
- **Provide accessible emotional support** and incorporate activities that promote play and self-expression into all areas of programming.

6.4.2 Tackle root causes through long-term multi-sectoral strategies

Education & Training

- **Enforce free education and the zero tuition fees policy:** hold the MOE accountable for enforcing free, accessible education. Department of Education to systematically share the results of this study with Education Officers Province-wide.
- **Prevent children from dropping out of school:** work with schools locally for cost exemptions and to prevent children being sent home. Support families with school packages: registration, uniforms, books and tuition support.
- **Bridge the gap back to school:** establish sustainable school reintegration through programmes which prepare children to return to school, facilitate registration and follow up the child's progress.
- **Training for youth & teenagers** Provide flexible, alternative education and skills training for teenagers and youth unable or unwilling to return to school.

Economic Empowerment: Food Security & Sustainable Livelihoods

- **Support food insecure families:** support vulnerable families with livelihoods support (such as expanding the OVC programming criteria), skills development, or business start-up capital. These should be linked to reintegration programmes including conditions such as 'child must remain in school.'
- **Support youth exiting the streets:** support teenagers and youth unwilling to return home or wanting to start independent lives with incentives (such as start-up loans for groups of youth), livelihoods, cash support, skills development etc, employment by local government in town clean-ups and formalised recycling schemes, and registration for ID, vocational courses, opening bank accounts etc.
- **Include Rift Valley in food security survey** being conducted.
- **Establish a savings society** for children and youth to safely save money, learn basic resource management and life skills.

Access to Healthcare

- **Make existing health services accessible** to children: establish a children's desk and child focal point at hospitals, ensuring free registration and basic care, and mobile street outreach clinics, including immunisation and sexual/reproductive health.

IDP Crisis and Emergency Preparedness

- **Resolve IDP crisis:** rapidly resolve ongoing IDP crisis with comprehensive registration, resettlement, justice, livelihoods support & training to destitute families, including IDP street families and IDP families with children connected to the street.
- **Integrate emergency preparedness:** conduct integrated emergency preparedness planning for Rift Valley focusing on prevention and response.

Sexual & Physical Abuse

- **Improve comprehensive, accessible services** for children to report safely and without fear, as well as to receive support.
- **Systematic prosecution of abuse:** whether it happened at home, in school, in the streets, by police etc.

Prevention

- **Prevent children joining the streets:** mobilize resources, map and target the geographical sending locations and key factors that push children to the streets, and strengthen their community-based child protection systems.

6.5 Essential approaches relevant to all

- **Operations to scale** to ensure major impact.
- **Inter-sectoral, operational alliances:** integrate activities as cross-sectoral. Base coordination on operational needs.
- **Mentorship:** enlist youth, who used to be connected with the streets as key outreach and support workers, ensuring adequate training and support is provided.
- **Evidence-based planning that recognises difference:** base programming on what the child needs in terms of experience-specific, individualised support, not on perceptions
- **Engage with children, youth and base structures** directly to develop solutions and take an active role in decision-making, facilitating a platform for children to affect policy and share experiences. Support the Children's Assembly and other mechanisms for children to engage in decisions nationally.
- **Do No Harm:** anything that does more harm than good must stop.
- **Sustainability:** address the root causes alongside immediate needs.
- **Accountable to children:** resource transparency from all actors, holding government departments accountable to child protection legislation and obligations.
- **Support,** don't criminalise children.

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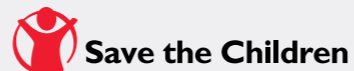
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8. Annexes

ANNEX A: Profile of Research Consultant & Report Author

Bridget Steffen is a Child Protection specialist, humanitarian professional and academic. Based at Wits University's Graduate School of Public & Development Management in Johannesburg, she established, manages and teaches its humanitarian programmes. She studied international development and politics, is published on child protection in emergencies, and has a Masters in Humanitarian Programme Management from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Bridget has operational experience in conflict, post-conflict, first-phase emergencies and development. She has worked in the field of Child Protection with Save the Children in Ivory Coast, Bangladesh and occupied Palestinian territories, in Chad and Southern Africa with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and in Latin America with various community-based organisations.

Annex B Survey Tool I



STREET CHILD PROFILING

RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE, OCTOBER 2011

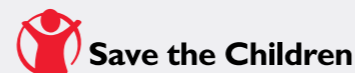
TOOL 1A: CENSUS Survey - ALL Street Children

0. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Identification	
Researcher(s) code: _____	Date of interview (dd/mm/yy): __/__/__
Location of the site	
County [name] _____ [number] __	Respondent number at the site: [ie 001] _____ [Each researcher will start at 001 at every new site]
Constituency [name] _____ [number] __	
District:[Name] _____ [number] __	
Division [Name] _____ [number] __	
Location [Name] _____ [number] __	
Sub-Location [Name] _____ [number] ___	
Site name: _____ [number] ___	
Informed Consent: [See guidance sheet] Do you agree to participate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [Ask permission to ink child even if will not answer survey]	
Verification done by: [signature of researcher] _____ Date: __/__/__	
1. CENSUS QUESTIONS	
1.1 What do your friends call you? [first name only] _____	1.1.1 [Write down sex of Child]: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
1.2 How old are you? <input type="checkbox"/> Age [in years]: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Date of birth: [date/month/year]: __/__/__ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know [write estimate of age in 1.2.1]	1.2.1 Researcher observations [see guidance sheet]: appears to be [age] _____
1.3 When did you first start spending time in the streets? <input type="checkbox"/> This year [2011] <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year ago [in 2010] <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years ago [in 2009] <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years ago [in 2008] <input type="checkbox"/> 4 years ago [in 2007] <input type="checkbox"/> _____ years ago [write number of years] <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	1.3.1 How many days a week do you spend some of your time on the streets? [tick all that apply] <input type="checkbox"/> [number] _____ days per week [if 0 days, explain]: <input type="checkbox"/> Used to spend time on the streets <input type="checkbox"/> my friends are street children <input type="checkbox"/> work near streets <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

1. CENSUS QUESTIONS - CONTINUED

1.4 Where are you originally from? <input type="checkbox"/> Location _____ <input type="checkbox"/> District _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Province _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County [to be filled by researcher afterwards] _____	1.4.2 What is your Tribe? [if parents are different tribes, tick both and 'mixed marriage' box] <input type="checkbox"/> Borana <input type="checkbox"/> Luo <input type="checkbox"/> El Molo <input type="checkbox"/> Luhya <input type="checkbox"/> Gabbra <input type="checkbox"/> Maasai <input type="checkbox"/> Turkana <input type="checkbox"/> Meru <input type="checkbox"/> Kamba <input type="checkbox"/> Pokot <input type="checkbox"/> Kisii <input type="checkbox"/> Samburu <input type="checkbox"/> Kalenjin <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Kikuyu _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed marriage [if ticked two] <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
1.5 Were you displaced by the post-election violence? [tick one only] <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	1.5.3 Was your family affected in any other ways by the post-election violence? [tick all that apply] <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I/family was attacked <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – family lost livelihood etc <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Family members were killed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I was recruited into a gang <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I was harassed during curfews <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I saw violence being done to others <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
1.5.4 Have you been affected by any other emergency? [tick all that apply] <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Drought <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Tribal clashes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	
1.6 Researcher notes [If has been affected by PEV, explain that you will discuss this more later. Write here relevant information the child gave regarding PEV/ drought/flooding/other emergency] <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.7 How often do you sleep on the streets? [read aloud and tick one box only] <input type="checkbox"/> I always sleep on the streets/outdoors <input type="checkbox"/> I sometimes sleep on the streets/outdoors <input type="checkbox"/> I never sleep on the street/outdoors <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	
<p>This is the end of the survey. I just have some</p> <p>2. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS/REFERRALS</p>	
2.8 [IMPORTANT: Ink – explain: can I put ink on you? It is the same ink they use in the national census, to make sure we don't count you twice. [Apply ink]	
2.2 Census extension: With every fourth child you interview, ask: would you be willing to continue with some extra questions? [Tool 1B], we are asking certain children to help us understand more detail about the situation children face on the street. It will take an extra 10-15 minutes. If child refuses, or is aged 6 or under, ask the next child you interview. If yes, go to Tool 1B and attach this form to it.	
2.3 Referral: I can't promise that they can help, but I can point you to the services you need <input type="checkbox"/> URGENT REFERRAL REQUIRED [Medical emergency/disclosure of abuse/SGBV/unaccompanied child aged 6 or below]. Action taken..... <input type="checkbox"/> ORDINARY REFERRAL REQUIRED [reunification/education/foster care/birth certificate/psychosocial support requested]. Action taken.....	
VALIDATION	
I confirm that the information contained in this survey is a true reflection of that given to me by the interviewee.	
Name of Researcher: _____	Signature of Researcher _____
Name of Team Leader: _____	Signature of Team Leader _____

Annex C: Survey Tool 2



STREET CHILD PROFILING

RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE, OCTOBER 2011

TOOL 1B: Census Extension - EVERY FOURTH Street Child

Profiling Requested by: Child Protection Working Group in Kenya, made up of representatives from government, UN, NGOs and local organisations, dedicated to the protection of children in Kenya. **Profiling Funded by:** UNICEF

Profiling Implemented by: Save the Children UK **Profiling Coordinator:** Bridget Steffen, Save the Children UK

Attach this sheet to TOOL 1A census of the child	Assessor's code _____	Date ___/___/___
	Child's Name _____	Site code _____

I will now ask you some questions about ... I. WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS LIKE SINCE YOU JOINED THE STREETS		
<p>A. Who is taking care of you now? [tick one box only]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other family [grandparents aunt..]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Foster carer (non-relatives)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children's home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Barracks commander</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Another child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Self</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>	<p>A.1 Are your parents still together? [Remind we will not tell anyone. Tick all boxes that apply].</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Both parents live together</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, both parents have died</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, parents are separated/one has died</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p> <p>Where are your parents currently living?</p> <p>Location.....</p> <p>District.....</p> <p>Province.....</p> <p>County [filled in afterwards].....</p>	<p>A.2 Does your family live and sleep on the streets?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>B. Are you caring for any children when you are in the street? [tick all that apply]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my own children [number of children] _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my siblings [number of children] _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, not related to me [number of children] _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>	<p>C.1 What is the highest level of education you reached? [Tick all that apply]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed Nursery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Primary: Completed class ____[#]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Secondary: Completed form ____[#]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know</p> <p>[# = number]</p>	<p>C.2 [If not going to school] Why do you not go to school? [Tick all that apply]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Can't afford it</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't want to go</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have to work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
<p>C. Are you going to school at the moment? [Tick one box only]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, formal education</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, informal [ie vocational, rehab]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		

I. WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS LIKE SINCE YOU JOINED THE STREETS - CONTINUED	
<p>I.1 Do you have sisters and brothers? [tick all that apply]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sisters [if any sisters are children, go to I.1.1]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, brothers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>I.1.1 Where do your sisters spend most of their time? [tick all that apply] [inform TL of new places to go to find girls]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> At home with guardian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a children's home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On the streets / in at the barracks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Working [in bars, hotels, farms, house help, in the market]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>D. What pushed you to leave home? [Push Factors -Tick all that apply]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (A) Post election violence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (B) Displacement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (C) Government resettlement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (D) Drought</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (E) Flooding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (F) Violent incident/Tribal clashes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (G) Abandoned / separated from family</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (H) Hunger - Lack of food at home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (I) Abuse at home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (J) Unable to go to school (Due to cost)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (K) Caregiver died</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (L) Caregiver was ill</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (M) Caregiver in jail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (N) Loss of livelihood at home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (O) Other, specify _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (P) Don't know</p>	
<p>E. What drew you to the streets? [Pull factors -Tick all identified categories]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (Q) To socialize / be independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (R) To access services (i.e. availability of food handouts on the streets etc)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (S) Peer pressure/friends on the street</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (T) To earn money</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (V) Availability of glue</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (W) Born in the street</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (X) Other (specify) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (Y) Don't know</p>	
<p>F. Out of all those reasons, which were the biggest reasons for coming to the streets? [max 3 reasons, first is most important reason]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> [write letter from above] _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> [write letter from above] _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> [write letter from above] _____</p>	
<p>I.2 The days when you are on the streets, how long do you spend there? [tick one box only]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Up to half the day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>	

I. WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS LIKE SINCE YOU JOINED THE STREETS - CONTINUED

1.3 What do you do to survive on the streets? [tick all that apply]

Odd jobs/labour Sell glue
 Food handouts Scavenge for materials to be recycled
 Parents/caregiver provides Other (specify): _____
 Steal
 Sex work
 Beg
 Use drugs [glue etc]

1.3.1 How often do you eat a full meal? [Tick all that apply]

Three full meals per day [i.e. it fills you up till the next meal time]
 Two full meals per day
 One full meal per day
 No full meals per day – I scavenge only
 I scavenge in between meals
 I don't know

1.4 If you had the chance would you want emotional support to discuss what happened when you left home?

No
 Yes [explain counselling can be arranged and at the end fill out referral form via DCO].
 Don't know

1.5 I am going to ask some questions about what scares you on the streets [Tick all that apply – read aloud PROMPT questions]

[PROMPT] Does anything scare you about your **health** on the streets?

Getting sick (malaria, tooth ache etc)
 Contracting HIV
 Dying on the streets

[PROMPT] Does anything scare you about **violence** on the streets?

Sexual violence [if child discloses being sexually abused, conduct immediate referral]
 Other street children [peer pressure, bullying, drugs etc]
 Barracks commanders
 Mob justice
 Recruitment into armed gangs
 Fights

[PROMPT] Does anything scare you about **accidents** on the streets?

Fire
 Traffic
 Drowning

[PROMPT] Does anything scare you about **law enforcement** on the streets?

Police
 Council Askaris
 Juvenile/borstal homes
 Watchmen
 Prison
 Being arrested
 Other [specify] _____

1.6 Who protects you on the streets? [tick all that apply]

Self (I protect myself)
 Guardians/parents
 Police
 Other children
 Barracks commanders
 NGOs
 Children's Department
 Other [specify] _____

1.6.2 When something bad happens on the street who do you tell? [tick all that apply]

Police
 116 Helpline [If child doesn't know the 116 helpline, explain it]
 Hospital
 NGO _____
 Children's Home
 Village/town chief
 Children's Department [DCO]
 Another child/barracks commander
 Other, Specify: _____
 Prefer not to report

I. WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS LIKE SINCE YOU JOINED THE STREETS - CONTINUED

1.7 Have you been rounded up by authorities since you came to the streets? [tick **one** box]

Yes.....times [write number]
 Never
 Don't know

1.8 What is your **single** biggest need that is **not** being properly met at the moment? [tick **one** box only]

LOVE
 FOOD
 HEALTHCARE
 EDUCATION [formal/non-formal/uniforms/fees]
 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT [counseling/116]
 DAY centre
 CARE & SHELTER [foster/Children's Home]
 NON-FOOD Items [Bedding, shoes, soap]
 FAMILY REUNIFICATION
 SAFETY & SECURITY
 REHABILITATION [to come off drugs etc]
 OTHER, specify.....
 NONE of the Above

1.8.3 Are there any other needs that have not been met? [tick all that apply]

LOVE
 FOOD
 HEALTHCARE
 EDUCATION [formal/non-formal/uniforms/fees]
 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT [counseling/116]
 DAY centre
 CARE & SHELTER [foster/Children's Home]
 NON-FOOD Items [Bedding, shoes, soap]
 FAMILY REUNIFICATION
 SAFETY & SECURITY
 REHABILITATION [to come off drugs etc]
 OTHER, specify.....
 NONE of the Above

1.9 Has an organisation ever taken you back to your family? [ie family reunification]

Yes.....[number] times an organisation has taken me back to my family
 No

[If the child would like to be reunified, fill out referral form to DCO at end of interview]

1.10 If you were given the choice, what living situation would you prefer? [read aloud, tick **one** box]:

Live at home with my family [wants reunification? Fill out DCO referral form]
 Live in a children's home [wants placing? Fill out DCO referral form]
 Live in foster care [wants placing? Fill out DCO referral form]
 Live in a rented place with other friends
 Stay on the streets
 I don't know
 Other.....

1.11 What registration documents do you own? [tick all that apply]

Birth Notification None
 Birth Certificate Don't know
 Health Card

1.12 Any final observations by researcher about the child [high on glue, drunk, emotional, pregnant, physical or mental disability, confused etc].

This is the end of the survey. Thank you again for your time!

2. VALIDATION

2.1 Referral & Validation: Go back and record on main census [tool 1A] if child needs referral and to validate the census

Annex F: FGD Participants Phase II (September-October 2011)

Location	Target of Focus Group Discussion	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Eldoret	Boys connected to the streets	7			
Eldoret	Parents of children connected to the streets				7
Kitale	Boys children connected to the streets	12			
Kitale	Girls connected to the streets		8		
Molo	Boys connected to the streets 13-17	12	0		
Molo	Parents of children connected to the streets			1	8
Naivasha	Parents of children connected to the streets (Mothers only)				10
Naivasha	Parents of children connected to the streets (Mothers & Fathers)			5	5
Naivasha	Children who sleep and live in the streets	15			
Naivasha	Children who don't go to school and spend time in streets	11			
Naivasha	Children who go to school and spend time in streets	7	9		
Total		64	17	6	30
Grand Total					117

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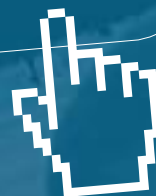
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