

Child Protection in Crisis Uganda: March 2012 Learning Retreat

*Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence in Uganda
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Child Protection in Crisis

Network for Research, Learning & Action

Introduction

- National surveillance on CSA does not exist for Uganda
- Sub-national studies indicate that children in grow up with overwhelming levels of sexual violence in homes, schools, and communities
- Such violence remains largely under-reported and under-addressed

Sitan

- Studies done by (Raising Voices) so far have indicated increased violence against children.
- More than two-thirds (75.8%) reported having experienced sexual violence, such as being touched (Raising Voices)
- Girls experienced sexual violence more often than boys, with 46.5% reporting that had been touched sexually against their will and one fifth (20.5%) reporting that they had been forced to have sex.

Sitan continued

- A total of 13.3% of the boys reported being forced to have sex, and 27% reported being touched sexually against their will.
- Sexual vulnerability of boys appears to be overlooked and a further more detailed study is needed to understand the extent of the problem.
- 24.3% said mainly at school; 34.2% said at home and at school; and 9.3% in the community.

Sitan cont.

- There was universal condemnation of CSA against younger children, there was a marked difference when the abuse in question was directed at older children, particularly girls. This, while not explicitly condoned, was apparently tolerated.
- High levels of sexual violence that children experience at school (ANPPCAN)
- ***There seems to be not much response to this violence in schools and in the communities.***

Sitan cont.

- Local authorities suggested CSA was having a serious impact on young people's capacity to complete their education.
- Another study has revealed that number of children affected by CSEC had increased from an estimated 12,000 children in 2004 to 18,000 in 2010;
- Girls were more impacted than boys; and that most cases of CSEC occurred between ages 14 and 18.
- CSEC was more prevalent in urban settings than rural areas.

Sitan cont.

- Despite a purported increase in NGO services for CSEC, research has revealed that few of these organizations had the financial resources or the capacity to address the large scope of this problem.
- The interventions that were conducted lacked effective linkages with law enforcement and national-level response.

Implications

- Although small scale studies indicate increased prevalence they do not bring out the magnitude of the problem in the country.
- There are few responses to the problem, mainly run by civil society organizations that are not coordinated and not linked to government machinery.
- Although Government and stakeholders have developed an action plan against child sexual abuse, its implementation requires effective coordination, resourcing and advocacy. These can only be available if all key players are known, united and support a coordinated national response.

Implications

- This study will help establish the magnitude, the stakeholders and the services required to respond the problem.
- The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development and the Child Protection Working Group looks forward to the results of this study because they will help the Ministry and its stakeholders plan better.

Conclusion

- This is an initiative that makes the Uganda Program Learning Group and the Child Protection in Crisis network very helpful in responding to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. The study will help us learn more about this problem.
- My colleagues will now present the details of the study.
- HOPE NEVER RUNS DRY FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN.