

**THE MAGNITUDE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN  
UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF MAJOR CITIES AND  
TOWNS IN UGANDA**

By

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## 1. Background

Trafficking in human beings is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today. It is the fastest growing vice by which people are forced into slavery (United Nations 2007). Trafficking in persons: "shall mean recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipts of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of the position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of the person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. (Palermo protocol, 2000)

Trafficking in human persons is one of the modern forms of slavery because traffickers employ violence, threats, and other forms of coercion to force their victims to work against their will. Actual statistics on human trafficking including child trafficking are difficult to obtain because it is a covert activity. The US report 2005, on human trafficking estimates that of the 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are children. The trade in human beings is estimated by US \$32 billion worldwide

Victims of trafficking are subject to nasty human rights violations including, rape, torture, forced abortions, starvation, and threats of torturing or murdering family members (ibid). In most cases, victims who are looking to escape poverty in their own countries accept fraudulent offers of foreign employment such as child-care or restaurant work, only to be forced into prostitution in deplorable conditions in a strange country (United Nations 2000).

Human trafficking especially child trafficking in Uganda has been significantly growing; organized through unofficial networks of relatives, friends, neighbours, parents and village mates even though total strangers are also involved in the practice. Recent reports by Save the Children in 2006 and ILO /IPEC, 2007 have shown that this heinous crime is still going on behind our doors and many people appear to be uninformed about the extent of the Vice.

There is no doubt that children are trafficked for various reasons and many are involved in hazardous forms of labor including commercial sex, domestic labour, commercial agriculture, fishing, mining, armed conflict, drug trafficking and urban informal sector activities (Kasirye: Namussis, 2007). For example, in north-eastern Uganda desperate parents are currently selling off their children due to wide spread poverty and food insecurity in order to survive. (Namubiru 2007). Moreover, it is estimated that 30,000 girls and boys have been abducted into the rebel forces in the last 20 years. (Namutebi 2007).

It should be noted that child trafficking has not been given the political and social attention it so deserves by neither the government nor NGOs (with the exception of a few) (Pearson 2003). On the other hand, our government like many NGOs that are concerned with issues related to conflict; internally displaced persons and the high influx of refugees from neighbouring countries such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sudan has failed to problematize trafficking in children and young women as a key issue that needs to be given priority in its political agenda. For instance, the 1999 Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development's National Action Plan on Women (1999) five year plan focussed on poverty, income generation and economic empowerment, reproductive health and rights, the legal framework and decision-making,

girl-child and education (Republic of Uganda 1999), it did not make any specific reference to trafficking in women or girls, it stopped on recognizing the demand for girl-child labour (Musisi 2007).

## **2. Problem Statement**

Trafficking in human beings is a global issue, but whereas in developed world is easy to estimate the magnitude of the problem; lack of concrete data about the whole trafficking that would allow comparative analyses and the design of countermeasures is scarce. Understanding the extent and nature of the problem of trafficking is still complicated due to the fact that there is no comprehensive report and national representative data about human trafficking in general in Uganda. Much of the literature shows that previous work on trafficking was thematic and done on small population and areas. Most of these researches were rapid assessments and baselines for selected interventions, thus limited in their methodologies and not representatives. Studying trafficking in human persons needs time, resources, experience and methodologies need to be adequate to cover all areas. Previous researchers have also revealed that the problem is hidden and inaccessible and needs adequate time to study.

Therefore, there is a gap in actual statistics on the prevalence of human trafficking and worst forms of child labor in the country. Studies on the subject matter have been done piecemeal and have not attached figures of estimating the magnitude of this problem. Nonetheless, the problem of child trafficking is growing day by day, particularly the non-ending war in the North are increasing the number of orphans in the country. In order for the government and other stakeholders to come up with appropriate measures aimed at tackling this problem, there is need to engage a much wider team of experienced researchers to carry out an extensive study on the nature and magnitude of Human trafficking in the country. Thus MISR intends to put together a team to undertake a comprehensive research and unravel the details of this vice and the information generated will provide the needed picture and the interventions required to address the problem.

## **3. Overall Objective**

The overall objective of the study is to collect data on human trafficking including women and girls in Uganda with ultimate goal of designing interventions and policies for addressing Human trafficking in Uganda.

### **3.1 Specific Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to establish the nature and magnitude of human and child trafficking in Uganda.

Specifically, the study aims to;

- a) Provide an estimate of the number of adults and children trafficked to and from major towns in Uganda in the last 2-5 years,
- b) Assess methods of recruitment working, living conditions and consequences of trafficked individuals both in rural and towns,
- c) Examine people's perceptions on human and child trafficking,

- d) Assess factors responsible for sustaining human and child trafficking around the country,
- g) Identify and document initiatives put in place to address the problem of Human trafficking and
- h) Make specific recommendations for the design and implementation of the programme of support to the TBP

## 4. Research Methodology

### 4.1 Study design

The complexity of this study will require employing a cross-sectional approach in order to collect information from various sources. It will employ both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection in a bid to triangulate the information gathered.

### 4.2 Area and Population of the Study

This study will be carried out in all the major cities and towns of Uganda in addition to each of the 5 Divisions of Kampala District. The major cities and towns include Aboke, Ajumani, Apac, Arua, Barlonyo, Bombo, Budaka, Bugamba, Bugiri, Bundibugyo, Bushenyi, Busia, Entebbe, Fort Portal, Gulu, Iganga, Jinja, Kabale, Kalangala, Kampala, Kamuli, Kasese, Kisoro, Koboko, Lira, Makindye, Malaba, Masaka, Masindi, Mbale, Mbarara, Moroto, Moyo, Palisa, Port Bell, Rwakitura, Soroti, Tororo and Wadelai. The 5 Divisions of Kampala include Rubaga, Makindye, Kawempe, Nakawa and Kampala Central. Towns and cities were preferred for this study because earlier research had indicated that most of the child trafficking activities take place in these areas. It should also be noted that no research has targeted all the towns in the country before.

The research will target P4-P7 pupils in all primary schools with information about trafficked children, community members, district officials, relevant government officials, local leaders, relevant ministries and organisations concerned with activities involving children.

### 4.3 Methods of data collection

The study will use numerous methods of data collection which include: Semi structured questionnaires, Key informant interviews, Document review, Focus group discussions, Case studies and Observation guide.<sup>1</sup> The administration of these tools is explained below.

- i) *Semi-structured questionnaires* will be administered to primary school pupils in selected towns with information about trafficked children to collect data on the number of children trafficked to and fro Ugandan towns. This being a sensitive topic, primary pupils (between P.4 and P7) are preferred because of their social networks among themselves and the fact they provide information without being cautious. Primary pupils are also preferred because it is mandatory for all parents to send their children to school which make it

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<sup>1</sup> See study design matrix

possible to target a number of children with information from school. This tool will also be used to collect data on working and living conditions of trafficked children.

- ii) *Key informant interviews* will be employed to generate rare information from District leaders, local leaders, and staff of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and organisations working with children in the selected areas. The purpose of this tool will be to validate information from the other sources
- iii) *Document review* will be carried out to obtain secondary data. The documents to be review will include reports by UN agencies like ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAFRI. In addition, relevant documents from local and international NGOs like World Vision- Kuret, Save the Children, UYDEL, APPCAN, UCRNN, KIN, WAYS, Youth Aid, Uganda Children Centre, among others. More so, Reports from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Ministry of Internal Affairs will also be reviewed. Lastly, the research team will attempt to analyse records from probation officers, police officers, immigration officers, Interpol Police, children and youth rehabilitation centres and customs and clearing officers located at the border points.
- iv) *Two focus group discussions* will be held with community members and children in each of the selected towns. Each discussion will comprise of 7-9 participants and will last for about one and half hours.
- v) *Case studies* of witnesses and victims of child trafficking will be carried out in order to collect in-depth information to supplement information collected by other tools.
- vi) *An observation guide* will be used to carry out field observations particularly focusing on children, paces of work, accomplices of child trafficking to have a clear view of the nature, complexity and magnitude of child trafficking.

#### 4.4 Data Processing and Analysis

Data editing will be carried out during fieldwork. Transcription of information from FGDs and Key informant interviews will be carried out at the end of each day. SPSS will be employed to analyse quantitative data.

Line by line analysis will be employed while dealing with qualitative data by labelling information according to various themes. The most common themes from the various statements by respondents will form the basis of the findings and conclusions of the study.

## Study design Matrix: Operational Methodology of the Study on the nature and magnitude of child trafficking in Uganda

Study Questions	Information Required	Information sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Methods	Limitations	What will the analysis allow us to say?
<i>A: What is the number of trafficked children to and fro major towns in Uganda in the last 2-5 years?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of children trafficked in the last 2-5years in major towns around the country.</li> <li>-Child trafficking routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local leaders</li> <li>-P4-P7 primary school pupils</li> <li>- Relevant documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Questionnaires</li> <li>-Gather and review official documents</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quantitative analysis of data from questionnaires</li> <li>-Summary of important statistics and issues from records</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders, organisation working with children and trafficked children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Inadequate records on several aspects</li> <li>-Lack of cooperation from some local leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Establishing number of trafficked children in the last 2-5 years.</li> <li>-Establishing the origin and destination of trafficked children.</li> <li>-Establishing the age and sex of trafficked children.</li> <li>-Validation of the data collected.</li> <li>- Identification of child trafficking routes.</li> </ul>
<i>B: What are the working and living conditions among trafficked children?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Living conditions of trafficked children.</li> <li>-Work done by trafficked children.</li> <li>-Working conditions of trafficked children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local leaders</li> <li>- P4-P7 primary school pupils</li> <li>-Trafficked children</li> <li>- Relevant documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Questionnaires</li> <li>-Gather and review official documents</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders, organisation working with children and trafficked children.</li> <li>-Observation guide</li> <li>-Case studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quantitative analysis of data from questionnaires</li> <li>-Content analysis of documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Finding the required some key informants</li> <li>-Failure to secure relevant documents.</li> <li>-Lack of cooperation from some local leaders</li> <li>-Willingness to talk about the topic by some respondents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Establishing work done by trafficked children</li> <li>-Establishing the working and living conditions of trafficked children.</li> <li>-Assessment of behaviours of trafficked children.</li> </ul>
<i>C: What are the perceptions of people on child trafficking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Views of different stakeholders on trafficking of children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local leaders</li> <li>-Members of the communities</li> <li>-Trafficked children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-FGDs with community members</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders, organisation working with children and trafficked children.</li> <li>-Questionnaires</li> <li>-Observation guide</li> <li>-Case studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quantitative analysis of data from questionnaires.</li> <li>-Line by line analysis of qualitative data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Finding the required some key informants</li> <li>-Willingness to talk about the topic by some respondents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of views from various stakeholders on the issue of child trafficking.</li> </ul>

Study Questions	Information Required	Information sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Methods	Limitations	What will the analysis allow us to say?
<i>D: What are the factors responsible for sustaining child trafficking around the country?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Causes of child trafficking in Uganda's major towns.</li> <li>- Reasons explaining sustained child trafficking in all major towns in the country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local leaders</li> <li>-Members of the communities</li> <li>-Trafficked children</li> <li>-NGOs and CBOs working with children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-FGDs with community members</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders, organisations working with children and trafficked children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quantitative analysis of data from questionnaires.</li> <li>-Line by line analysis of qualitative data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Willingness to talk about the topic by some respondents.</li> <li>-Finding the required some key informants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Causes of child trafficking in major towns of the country</li> <li>-Methods used by child traffickers across all the towns</li> <li>-Differences and similarities of the causes and methods employed by child traffickers in the different towns.</li> </ul>
<i>E: What are the consequences of child trafficking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consequences of child trafficking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local leaders</li> <li>-Members of the communities</li> <li>-Trafficked children</li> <li>-NGOs and CBOs working with children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-FGDs with community members</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders, organisations working with children and trafficked children.</li> <li>-Observation guide</li> <li>-Case studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quantitative analysis of data from questionnaires.</li> <li>-Line by line analysis of qualitative data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Willingness to talk about the topic by some respondents.</li> <li>-Finding the required key informants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify consequences of child trafficking</li> </ul>
<i>F: What initiatives are there to address the problem of child trafficking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Measures in place to address child trafficking.</li> <li>-Organisations involved</li> <li>-Best practices in addressing child trafficking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local leaders</li> <li>-Members of the communities</li> <li>-NGOs and CBOs working with children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-FGDs with community members</li> <li>-Key informant interviews with local leaders, organisations working with children and trafficked children.</li> <li>-Observation guide</li> <li>-Case studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quantitative analysis of data from questionnaires.</li> <li>-Line by line analysis of qualitative data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Willingness to talk about the topic by some respondents.</li> <li>-Finding the required key informants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify measures in place to address child trafficking.</li> <li>-Identify organisations involved in child trafficking.</li> <li>-Identify best practices in addressing child trafficking</li> </ul>

## 5. Time Frame

Date	Task	Responsible Person	Period
Aug, 2007	-Development of the Research Instruments -Preparation of the document review framework	- Principal Researchers	3 weeks
Sept, 2007	-Verification visits -Data collection	Researchers & Assistants	4 weeks
October, 2007	Data processing and analysis	Researchers and Research Assistants	4 weeks
Nov, 2007	Draft Report Writing	Researchers	3 weeks
Dec, 2007	Final Report writing	Researchers	1 week
January, 2008	Publication of the report	Publisher	3 weeks
January 2008	Dissemination workshop	Researchers and other stakeholders	1 day

## 6. Budget

No.	Item	Particulars	No. of days	Unit cost	Total amount
1.	Honorarium	???	???	???	???
2.	Honorarium	???	???	???	???
3.	Honorarium	???	???	???	???
4.	Field Subsistence	???	???	???	???
5.	Transport	???	???	???	???
6.	Supplies and Communication	???	???	???	???
7.	Publication of the report	???	???	???	???
8.	Dissemination workshop	???	???	???	???
9.	Institutional administrative costs	???	???	???	???



## Appendix 1: Institutional Profile

Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) is an autonomous Institute of Makerere University. It conducts and coordinates basic and applied research; provides consultancy services to private, public and NGO sectors; undertakes networking with related institutions globally; develops and maintains a regional data bank and disseminates information. Over the years, MISR has built a reputation for itself attracting local and international scholars and a number of interdisciplinary works has been done and published under its auspices. All the foregoing aspects are reflected in the new mission statement.

*The Makerere Institute of Social Research is founded on over fifty years of continuous work. In the new millennium the goal is to achieve Excellency and equity through multi-disciplinary research to improve academic knowledge, inform public policy and contribute to economic and social development. Recognizing the need for competitive competence and sustainability, MISR will serve the needs of society through an ethical approach to research in the academic integrity of an innovative Makerere University.*

MISR, being a research arm of Makerere University, has a sizable specialized core staff and in addition enjoys a privilege of recruiting any faculty member/students in the University on any on-going project and consultancy in the Institute. This gives the Institute a pool of experts from whom to choose as need arises.

### Facilities:

- < All MISR researchers have modern computer facilities (including Pentium computers, laser Jet and Dot-Matrix printers) in their offices and the latest soft ware for data processing and report writing. Soft ware for word processing includes MS-Word 97, MS-Word 2000 and Word perfect 6.1 for Windows while statistical soft ware includes SPSS for windows (v 6.1.3 for windows 3.1 and v 2.0 for windows 95) and MINITAB Rel.8. Other equipment includes High Resolution Scanners and Photocopiers.
- < The Institute also has a dedicated statistical unit (constituting of a statistician and 2 data clerks) and a secretarial unit. The statistical unit normally uses Epifo for data capturing and SPSS 6.1 for Windows for data analysis.
- < In addition to the ordinary phone and fax services, the Institute has a 24-hour e-mail (and internet) facility that enables instant communication with our partners world-wide. We also have a web-site (<http://www.uganda.co.ug/misr>) which is one more avenue the Institute uses to disseminate its work.
- < Other facilities include a fleet of vehicles (4-WDs) suitable, on hire, for the rugged country roads. The above facilities clearly make the Institute very suitable to undertake the tasks of the study.

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