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The role of Psychosocial support in improving the welfare of survivors of Child Labor. A case study of ANPPCAN Uganda Child Labor project-2012-2014.

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PSS FORUM, 2013
29th-31st October**



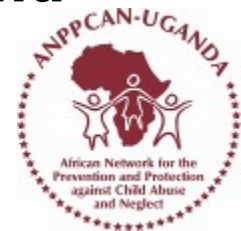


Background on Child Labor in Uganda

- Child labor often leads to irreversible injuries, accidents or even to death.
- Working children also get deprived from their right to education (UNICEF; 2011).
- More than one in three children 5 to 14 years old (36%), are involved in child labor.
 - Makes the country to one of the leaders in child exploitation (National Child Labor Policy 2006).

In response, ANPPCAN-Uganda has begun implementing a child labor project with the goal of reducing child labor in the communities of Jinja and Kampala Districts.

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Mapping Exercise

- A total of 502 households were interviewed in Jinja and Kampala Districts (2,855 children - 51% female)
 - Other vulnerabilities e.g. elderly guardians, level of poverty & child headed households were considered.
 - For CSEC, age, social economic background-considered in selecting the final beneficiaries of the project.
- The exercise led to selection of the most at risk and those involved in exploitation for support with educational support.
- A data base for beneficiaries was developed and is updated & being utilized.

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Adversities Facing Children in Uganda

- Child Labor
 - Sugarcane factories & plantations.
- Sexual Abuse
 - Prostitution, defilement, early marriage
- Physical Abuse
 - Beatings, burning
- Domestic Violence
 - Alcohol abuse, gambling issues
- Neglect
 - Denial of basic needs, lack of emotional support, jiggers

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How does the situation affect children?

- Girl children sexually abused in the bush by men who cut sugarcane.
- Accidents e.g. snake bites, falling off sugar cane lorries during transportation.
- Poor performance for most children in schools due to absenteeism.
- children taken up for casual work without pay
- Children felt as a burden by parents due to inability to cater for their basic needs.
- Child to child sex in the bushes.
- Death of children due to accidents.
- Parents resorted to drinking-money got from sugar cane plantations-increased domestic violence in homes.

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Program Activities

➤ Vocational Training

- Tuition, accommodation, meals
- “Start-up Toolkit” for Graduates
- Counseling

➤ School Support

- Tuition, meals
- Materials (books, uniforms)
- Counseling

➤ Income Generating Activities

➤ Community Engagement

- Child Rights Clubs, teacher trainings, community conversations, IEC campaign, and advocacy with community and political leaders

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Implementation and Evaluation Tools

- **Mapping exercise** to identify at risk children and withdraw exploited children to be supported by the project.
- **Information Management System (IMS)**
 - database for beneficiaries for documentation & inform good practices & sharing.
- **Meetings with stakeholders** to disseminate the findings of the mapping exercise to mobilize public support for the project
- **Monitoring & support visits** to schools/ institution and places/homes of placement of beneficiaries.
- **Home tracing** for exploited children and facilitated their successful resettlement in their homes.
- **Retention monitoring tool** developed for schools.

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Program Participants

	Jinja	Kampala
Primary School		
Number Enrolled	550	180
% Female	59.1	62
% Male	40.9	38
Mean Age	9	10
Vocational School		
Number Enrolled	50	60
% Female	32	100%
% Male	18	0%
Mean Age	17	15
Income Generating Activities		
Families Enrolled	180	0



Year 1 Results

	Jinja	Kampala
Primary School		
% Passing National Exams at Average or Above Marks	76%	80%
Dropout Rate	0%	10%
Number of Students Accessing Counseling Daily	5-7	10-12
Vocational School		
Graduation Rate	100%	54%

Year 1 Achievements:

- IGAs improved socio-economic situation of the households supported- inspiration to the community.
- Children developed positive attitudes, started involving themselves in productive activities.
- School administrations realized an increase in the number of children in their schools and this came along with good performance and regular attendance for the children.



Year 1 Challenges

- Drop-out rates for Kampala.
- At the beginning, some ***people viewed the exercise as a spy activity on their families to cause arrest of those who are involving children in child labor***
- Workload of the cases, even on entering & updating the database.
- Inadequate Facilitation of the child labor committees.
- Poor record keeping for parents' associations.
- Insufficient funds to effectively follow up these cases in form of legal, medical, and other basic needs support.
- Very high expectation from the community.

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Innovations in Year 2

- Consistent and constant support supervision to vocational centers & primary schools.
- Intensified interaction of counselors with beneficiaries-with emphasis on helping the children see themselves as worthy, to try to create hope.
- Conditioned vocational centers to have stationed counselors and routine tests for STIs, close & supportive monitoring.
- More family involvement in the programme.
- Allocation of time for the child mothers to visit their children-building trust & test interventions.

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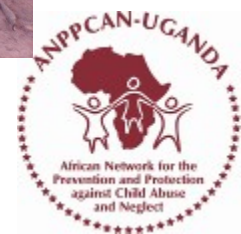




Community Conversation Meeting in progress - Jinja



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Gaining Skills to Get Off the Street

At 15 years, my mother subsequently chased me from her house and there I was on the street with nowhere to go. I linked up with my friends and we started staying together, going to bars singing karaoke in the night for survival... **Men were using us for sex all the time... on several occasions, one man could use several girls at a go without any protection....** One day while I was on the street, I heard about an organization called ANPPCAN that it was recruiting girls engaged in commercial sex for vocational training... **I joined the training in March 2012**, doing cosmetology and hairdressing. During the training I got some offer from saloons where I work part time and get some money. I can now take care of my twins. **After graduation, I intend to start a small business where I will be self employed.**

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Sustainability through Income Generating Activities



- Alimansi Gerald is 72 years old. He lost his wife in 1987 and cares for four orphaned grandchildren and an adopted child.
- He started repairing bicycles in 2000 with no working tools and struggled to make enough money to send the children to school. ANPPCAN provided Alimansi with a loan to buy supplies for his business.
- Now he is able to support all the children in school, provide basic needs and is putting up a better structure for himself and children out of business savings.

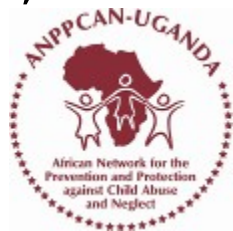




Factors for Successful Implementation

- **Monitoring and support supervision**-Regular monitoring visits, review meeting and encouragement to the beneficiaries-proper handling of any challenges that emerged.
- **Sensitizations and awareness raising.**-Community sensitization & frequent airing of radio spots and talk shows
- **Networking and collaboration with community structures**-Good cooperation with the existing community structures -ownership & sustainability
- **Capacity building and training**-SMCs, CCFs and CRCs, CLCs, etc.

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Lessons Learned

- Child labor & or CSEC is a multidimensional problem that should be addressed through different approaches in different sectors like education, social protection, agriculture, HIV/AIDs, gender and youth employment.
- Requires integration of various interventions aimed at prevention, removal and rehabilitation of children from commercial sex work with those aimed at empowering vulnerable families and communities, at all levels of intervention.
- Behavioral change programmes require patience, understanding & non-judgemental support structures.
- In conclusion, **focus should be put on parenting skills** because this is the foundation/stem of all the good and bad encounters in society.

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