



# CHILD TRAFFICKING

## PROGRAM FACT SHEET

*Towards elimination of  
child trafficking in order  
to address child abuse  
exploitation and neglect*

## Introduction

The ANPPCAN Child Trafficking programme works to eliminate child trafficking in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It seeks to increase levels of awareness among different groups, build the capacity of service providers and develop and enhance networks and alliances to effectively fight child trafficking. It also seeks to undertake action oriented studies on child trafficking to enhance knowledge and guide interventions for curbing the vice. It also

Child Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children, 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 a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over the child, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation means at minimum, the exploitation for the prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or even removal of organs.

It is estimated that 17,500 persons are trafficked annually from Kenya. The U.S Department of State's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report states that annually, 50% of the 600,000-800,000 people trafficked across international borders are minors. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that 12.3 million people are put into forced labour, bonded labour, forced child labour and sex slavery at any given time. Additionally, approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked internally or externally each year (UNICEF, 2003).

The programme is responding to the vice by:

### **1. Increasing the level of awareness among parents, teachers, children, policymakers, implementers, FBOs, government officials and Civil Society Organizations. This is done through:**

- Awareness and sensitization dialogue meetings with key stakeholders such as national and regional networks and organizations
- Information dissemination to these groups
- Public campaigns targeting the parents, children and the community at large
- Lobbying for the UN Protocol ratification
- Media campaigns on child trafficking
- Review of policies and laws to establish gaps
- Alliance building forums of key actors

### **2. Building the capacity of children service providers in order to effectively fight child trafficking and protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation by:**

- Training of government ministries and departments of Children Services, Police, Immigration, Judiciary, Civil Society Organizations, Media associations and children themselves.
- Creating community structures to effectively fight child trafficking in target communities
- Initiating and Strengthening the anti-trafficking units and build alliances for better impact
- Establishing a network of institutions to facilitate information sharing and coordination of responses to child trafficking in the region
- Developing resource and information centres on child trafficking in each of the target country.

3. Undertaking action oriented studies on child trafficking in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This is in regard to:

- What these communities know about child trafficking
- Programmes and resources available in the targeted communities
- Extent and forms of trafficking in children in the targeted communities
- Factors that force and maintain children in trafficking
- Organizations and different networks that are currently working in the area of child trafficking
- Good practices that could be scaled up

## Effects of Trafficking on Children

Trafficking deprives child victims the privilege to exercise their wide range of rights, including the right to belong/identity, the right freedom, education, healthcare, to rest and leisure as well as the right not to be subjected to torture, or cruel and inhuman degrading treatment. When children are first recruited to be trafficked, they may leave home peacefully or by deception or violence, as well as abduction and application of drugs to secure children's obedience.

The harm inflicted on trafficked children depends on the form or forms of exploitation to which they are subjected. Through this programme, many children are already benefiting in targeted countries, through advocacy and awareness raising, capacity building and improved networking. The created / strengthened systems directly benefit children who fall victims or potential of being trafficked.

## Strategies to Combat Child Trafficking

ANPPCAN is lobbying with the four governments to pass and strengthen laws defining and criminalizing trafficking, and establish and equip institutions to implement the laws. The government has a responsibility to vigorously investigate and prosecute traffickers and those who aid or protect them.

The programme has also established community-based structures at the border towns to counter the vice in the region through public awareness campaigns and monitoring of the children's movement along and across the borders.

Government officers are being trained to use all the legal tools at disposal to facilitate effective extradition for prosecution of traffickers.

The four countries have committees cooperating to voluntarily facilitate rescue of victims and humane repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration into their families, or offered alternatives if unable to return to their home communities.

## Partners

OAK Foundation      Save the Children Sweden

ISPCAN      Anti-Slavery International