



Child Abuse and Neglect Situation Analysis Report.

Analysis of child abuse cases reported in the print media 2017-2018.



Compiled

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Executive Summary

The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN) Uganda Chapter is a Non-Governmental, non-political and nonprofit making Organization geared at addressing the problems of child abuse and neglect and promotes protection and promotion of the rights of children in Uganda. The ANPPCAN, Uganda chapter was launched in 1992.

Pursuant to objective 2.4 of the organization's constitution, ANPPCAN is committed to the protection of children's rights through collection, review, analysis and dissemination of information on the situation of child abuse and neglect as reported by various authorities on a periodic basis. It is in light of this mandate that , ANPPCAN with financial support from ERIKS Development partners, conducted an annual situational analysis and consequently report on the state of child abuse and neglect in the country for the period January 2017 – June 2018.

The study took a retrospective approach, focusing on cases of child abuse that were reported in print media in Uganda for the period between January 2017 and December 2018.

Data was collected by University Interns attached to ANPPCAN under direct supervision of ANPPCAN Senior Program Officer. To ensure reliability and validity of the study, two interns were assigned one daily news paper for review. Their findings for the cases and stories were cross checked and reconciled. The data was entered into the computer and analyzed basing on sib- themes and categories developed from the study objectives. The collected data showed the nature and trends of child abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse dominated all forms of child abuses cases reported in the media. Children are sexually abused in their home , schools and organisations in the community . By gender, boys were more abused than girls. For perpetrators of abuse, fathers dominated followed by the mothers and teachers. Central region especially Kampala, Gomba, Masaka and Rakai were at the top of district of the district with the highest prevalence rates geographically. Central region is a melting port of Uganda with a good percentage of its population living in urban areas. This has an implication on evaporation of positive cultural practices of protecting children. The months with rampant cases of abuse was May - August dry and harvesting period which is the time when income levels countrywide are relatively at the highest.

The police and the court have been making efforts to punish the offenders. The central and local government should increase the budget of Probation and Social Welfare officer who are the institutional and child protection cornerstone. All district should recruit substantive labour officers to check the problem of child labour and trafficking. There is a need of strengthening the family economic capacity through income generating activities, families' close follow up of the daily safety of their children, reunification of the street children to their families/relatives and introduction of mechanisms to investigate cases of child abuses by the court in order to take balanced corrective measures on offenders are recommended based the findings.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the study

The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN) Uganda Chapter is a Non-Governmental, non-political and nonprofit making Organization geared at addressing the problems of child abuse and neglect and promotes protection and promotion of the rights of children in Uganda. The ANPPCAN, Uganda chapter was launched in 1992.

ANPPCAN's mission is to work with duty bearers and children to build a society that upholds the rights of children, enables them to realize their potential, and nurtures them into responsible citizens. ANPPCAN's core program areas are Research, Communications and Policy Advocacy, Child Protection, Community Empowerment and Capacity Strengthening, Organizational Development and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Pursuant to objective 2.4 of the organization's constitution, ANPPCAN is committed to the protection of children's rights through collection, review, analysis and dissemination of information on the situation of child abuse and neglect as reported by various authorities on a periodic basis. It is in light of this mandate that, ANPPCAN conducted an annual situational analysis and consequently hereby report on the state of child abuse and neglect in the country for the period January – June 2018.

There is some good amount of data generated by OVC – MIS and Uganda Police Directorate of Research in line with child abuse and neglect in Uganda but each unit runs an independent data system that does not communicate with each other. There are many cases of violence against children that are settled long before reaching the judicial systems or are settled outside court system. Indeed there are many cases that would have died a natural death without entering the judicial system if it was not the print and electronic media exposing them for other parties to pick interest and start following them up.

Uganda is a signatory to both local and international child protection tools. In August 1990, she signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), followed by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Children's Act (2016), has established various implementing bodies such as the National Children Authority. The Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) of the Uganda Police Force Authority under the Ministry of Internal Affairs; The Family and Children's Courts and their related facets at different levels.

She has also has several provisions in the Supreme law of the land-The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda with children considered as a special vulnerable group with unique rights. The constitution further calls upon the civil society to get involved in the protection of the rights of the vulnerable sections of the population including children. The government of Uganda has further opened up space for the civil society to establish and implement programs geared towards offering special protection to children in all situations as spelt out the NGO Amendments Act 2006 as well as The 1995 Uganda Constitution. Despite the fact that these structures are in place, the problem of child abuse and neglect is increasingly depriving children of their rights. This implies that, as a system, one or if not most of its organs are not functioning well for its whole wellbeing. There is therefore a need to establish the levels of the child rights violations, the cause, and the gaps in child protection systems to enable the state to respond with evidence based child protection systems strengthening initiatives.

The child abuse and neglect situation analysis conducted with financial support from **ERIKS Development Partners**, will contribute to addressing this consolidated national level information gap on violence inflicted on the children. The findings will inform future ANPPCAN programs.

1.2 Objectives:

The broad objective of the situation analysis is to generate information that can be utilized in public education; Policy and Legislative advocacy on the problem of child rights violations in Uganda with special reference on current trends; influence public opinion about this problem and put child rights issues on the agenda of planning and development at all levels.

Specific Objectives:

1.2.1 Identifying the nature and magnitude of child abuse and neglect by July 2018.

1.2.2 Outlining various categories of abusers and victims including relationships between them in the context variables such as age, sex and geographical distribution

1.2.3 Suggesting critical issues on which to focus child rights policy and legislative advocacy at local, national and International level

1.3 Methodology

The study took a retrospective approach, focusing on cases of child abuse that were reported in print media in Uganda for the period between January and December 2018.

Data collection

Ideally, making the situational analysis study basing on primary data would have been the best option. With resource constraint, data from secondary sources was used. Data on variables of interest to the study was collected from print media.

Nature of the data needed

1. Case of child abuse reported in the media

Violence against children cases reported in the media categorized under; i) Sexual, ii) physical, iii) emotional and iv) exploitation.

No.	Source	Type of data and contributors	Institution
1	Media	Uganda Daily; Monitor , New Vision, Bukende, Red paper and one weekly Uganda Observer	Mass media

Data Analysis

- i) Data was collected by University Interns attached to ANPPCAN under direct supervision of RCA Senior Program Officer.

- ii) To ensure reliability and validity of the study, two interns were assigned one daily news paper for review. Their findings for the cases and stories were cross checked and reconciled.
- iii) They read the news paper to fish out the child abuse and neglect related cases.
- iv) They recorded the paper issue date, page number, form of violence, district of crime, and abuser. The identified pages in print media photocopied and filed to make tallying and analysis easier. The SPO RCA edited to check for omissions and consistency. The Program manager RCA analyzed the data with support of a volunteer statistician.

Some data were entered into the computer and analyzed basing on sub- themes and categories developed from the study objectives. The collected data showed the nature and trends of child abuse.

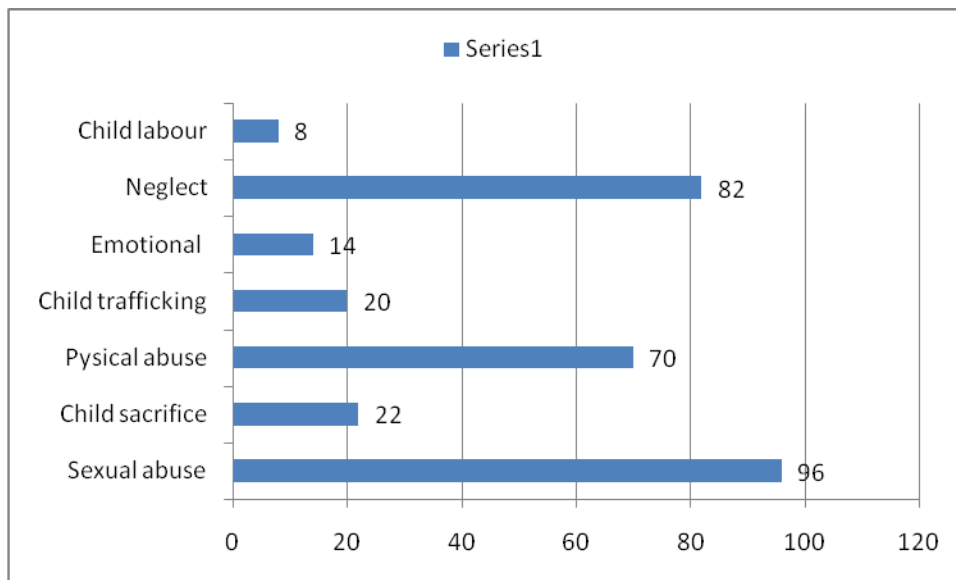
1.4 Limitations

Information collected in print media outlets, only considered New Vision, Monitor and Bukedde media houses. Over 47% did not indicate the gender and the age of the victims of child abuse. This especially where the victims were reported as the group of children.

Secondly, this situational analysis is based on reported cases of child abuse and therefore did not include cases of child abuse that were resolved at the village level in Local Council Courts as well as outside courts bearing in mind that quite a number of child abuse cases in Uganda are not reported due to several structural and cultural constraints.

1.5 Findings

1.5.1 Magnitude of child abuse forms



Ranking of child abuse forms in order of magnitude;

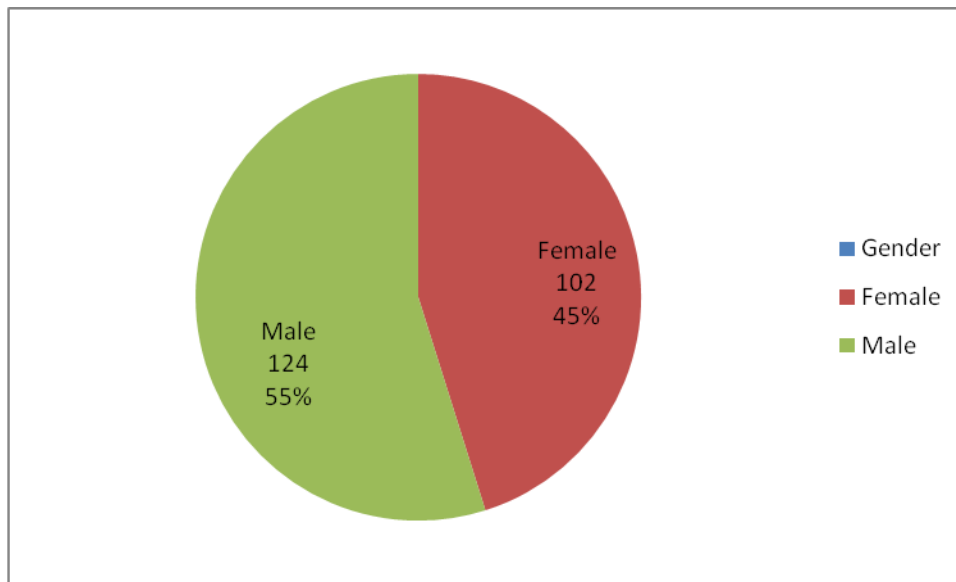
- 1) Sexual abuse

A primary head teacher alleged for defiling a 14 year old pupil of his school and fathering a baby with her; he threatens to harm the victim if she revealed the information.

Police in Nwoya are holding a teacher of Anaka for allegedly defiling his pupil after offering coaching lessons to the miner.

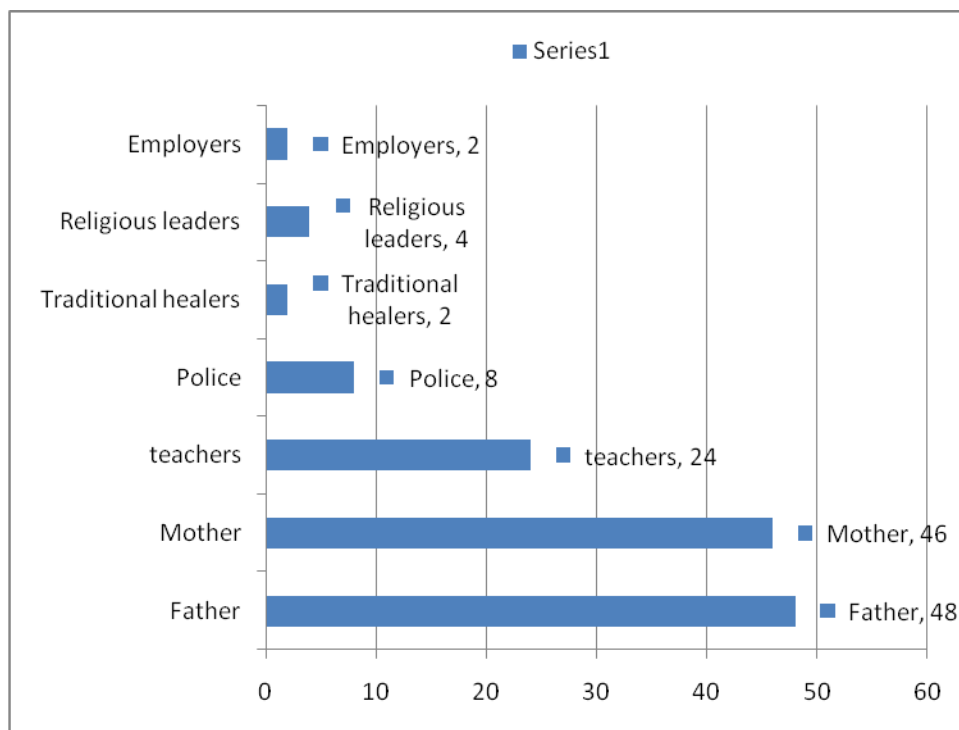
- 2) Neglect
- 3) Physical abuse
- 4) Child sacrifice
- 5) Child trafficking
- 6) Emotion abuse
- 7) Child labour

1.5.2 Victims of abuse and neglect by gender



The boys dominated with 55 % against 45% among the cases that indicated the names and gender. However there over a 200 cases that did not indicate the names and gender.

1.5.3 Perpetrators of child abuse



List of perpetrators starting with most dominant.

1) Fathers

A man has been arrested for defiling his own two year old daughter. He said to have gone drinking with his wife on realizing how drunk the mother was, he escaped. The daughter later reported to the mother who reported to the police (Pg10 8/14/2017)

2) Mothers

Police in Rukungiri hunts a woman suspected to have killed her twins, according to the officer in charge of criminal. Investigation in Rukungiri, the woman killed her children after she allegedly failed to cater for them.

3) Teachers

Police in Kakumiro district are holding a school head teacher for allegedly sexually harassing two girls at his school. He allegedly called the victims aged 13 and 15 respectively at different intervals and started placing his fingers in their private (Pg12 8/7/2017)

4) Police

5) Traditional healers

A traditional healer allegedly raping a 14 year old patient they had taken her for treatment.

6) Religious leader

A man defiles three girls, he was entrusted with the girls by the parents for Religious : Religious teaching which he turned into sexual teaching and made and the young girls watch pornography videos to entice them into sex and defiled them.Pg6 12/2/2017

7) Employers

The chief magistrate court in Tororo has remanded a 37 year old business man for defiling and torturing a maid who was working at his place

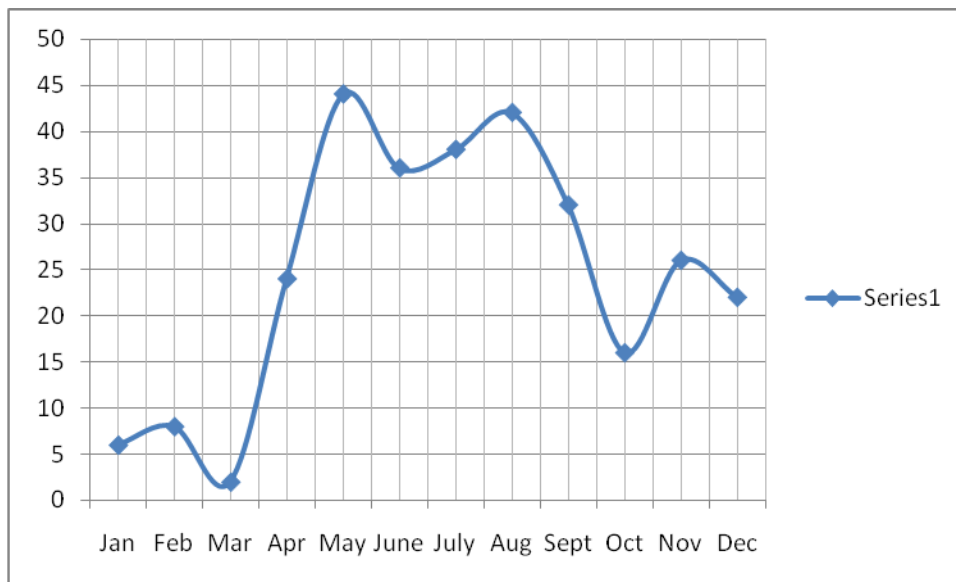
8) Grand parents

A 75 year old man allegedly for defiling his granddaughter who was left under his watch. Pg 6 9/30/2017

Police in Butaleja are holding a woman on child trafficking claiming that the mother had abandoned the child and she could not afford to take care of the child.

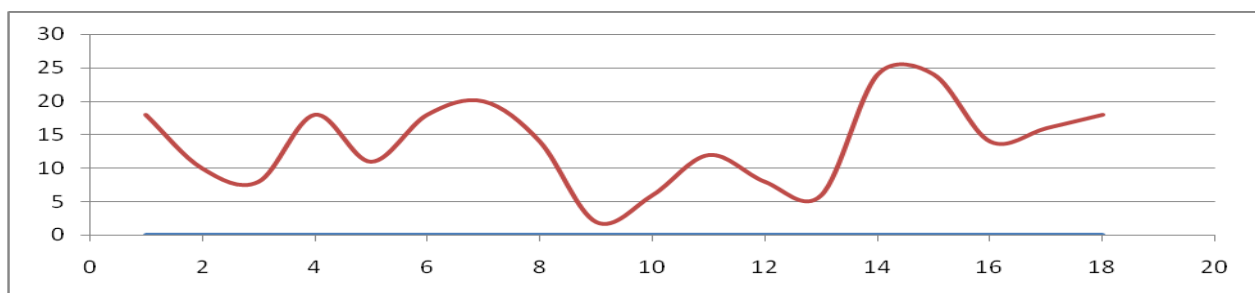
It emerged that the immediate care givers of children turned out to be abusers both at home and school. At school, most abuses happened during the school holidays under guise of coaching. It is surprising that the head teacher who are supposed to ensure enforcement of child protection policies in school are also involved sexually in abusing the children. It is not surprising that the children who were under religious instruction were abused by instructors.

1.5.4 Period of the year



It emerged that child abuse cases were mostly recorded from May to August. This is a very well known dry season when crops are mostly harvested. It's a period in the year when general incomes of the people seasonally rise as the farmers get income from their produces, and in turn enhances their purchasing power. On centrally during the festive season of Easter (April) and Christmas (October), there are relative fewer cases reported.

1.5.5 Age vulnerability :



Early Teenagers (13 and 14 years) dominated the age bracket when abused are more predominant. the second peak is around 6 years which the age of admission into primary school. Age 8 and nine years recorded the lowest incidence of child abuse case victims.

1.5.6 Geographical prevalence - Districts

The child abuse and neglect prevalence was reported highest in Kampala, followed by Iganga, Rakai, Ibanda and Gomba in the worst five districts. By region, Central Uganda dominated in reported cases of abuse and neglect. What is not known is whether the reported cases geographically matches the distribution of vigilant news reporters in the country.

1.6 Recommendations

- The central and local government should increase the budget of Probation and Social Welfare officer who are the institutional child protection cornerstone to execute their mandate.
- All district should recruit substantive labour officers to check the problem of child labour and trafficking. There is a need of strengthening the family economic capacity through income generating activities, families' close follow up of the daily safety of their children, reunification of the street children to their families/relatives and introduction of mechanisms to investigate cases of child abuses by the court in order to take balanced corrective measures on offenders are recommended based the findings.
- Most students are abused during holidays under holiday coaching program. The Ministry of Education should work with the law enforcement office to enhance compliance to MoE&S policies particularly banning holiday coaching program.
- Some district do not have labour officers which makes child labour prevalent. MoGLSD should work with Local Government to ensure every district has a Labour Officer.

1.7 Conclusion

The police and the court have been making efforts to punish the offenders. However, the measures ever taken are not adequate when compared with the injury afflict on the children by the offenders. Therefore, strengthening the family economic capacity through income generating activities, families' close follow up of the daily safety of their children, reunification of the street children to their families/relatives and introduction of mechanisms to investigate cases of child abuses by the court in order to take balanced corrective measures on offenders are recommended based the findings.



1.6 Operational definitions

Child Abuse:

Child abuse is any voluntary action that causes or may cause physical, psychological or sexual harm to a child. It is an act of omission that deprives a minor of the supervision of attention necessary for their well being and development. As used in this report, child abuse is classified into three major types: Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Neglect

Types of abuse

Emotional Abuse:

This refers to any action (mostly verbal) or attitude that causes or may cause psychological harm to a child. Acts of emotional abuse may be passive such as non attachment attitudes towards children such as ignoring them or depriving them of affection or security. They may also involve active behaviors such as shouting, threatening and scolding. Committing inappropriate acts that may lead to antisocial behavior before children is emotional abuse. Worth noting is the fact that all forms of child abuse have an emotional aspect.

Physical abuse:

This involves any voluntary action of a physical nature that causes or may cause physical harm or wound to a child

Sexual Abuse:

This refers to any behavior that exposes a child to sexual content or in which a child is used to obtain sexual stimulation and gratification.

Neglect:

This involves acts of omission necessary for the wellbeing and physical and psychological development of a child. Intra-familial neglect is common and it occurs when a child's parents or guardians abandon

the obligations that society entrusts them with. For instance failure to meet nutritional, health and educational needs as well as leaving a child unsupervised for a long period of time

Child Trafficking:

Refers to the recruitment, transfer, transportation and receipt of a child or children using coercive means, deceit or any other means for purposes of exploiting them physically, sexually or otherwise. In this report, child trafficking has been used to refer to abduction, stealing, child labor and trafficking of children Victim A child who has been abused

Aggressor:

This refers to any person who has abused a child. Aggressors are mainly adults though there are instances where children abuse fellow