



AN INVESTIGATION ON CHILD ABUSE AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC) IN EAST TIMOR

**A ONE-MONTH PILOT STUDY PRELIMINARY REPORT
APRIL 2002**

**By PRADET Timor Lorosa'e in collaboration with and funded by UNICEF
East Timor – Child Protection**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child abuse refers to non-accidental physical injury, neglect, psychological harm or sexual exploitation of children¹ requires different and specialized response. In its most serious forms abuse can lead to death or long-term harm to the physical or emotional well being of a child or young person.

Key agencies have already indicated that child abuse and CSEC should be given priority. Consultation with UNICEF, Department of Social Services, Human Rights and various agencies have indicated an emerging problem of child abuse (CA) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in East Timor.

In order to investigate the prevalence of child abuse and CSEC in East Timor, a pilot study was undertaken by PRADET Timor Lorosa'e in collaboration with UNICEF, Department of Social Services and Labor and the Human Rights Unit.

The objectives were to:

- a) conduct a preliminary assessment on the extent of child abuse and CSEC in Dili and selected districts in order to develop strategies to address the problem.
- b) provide recommendations for a second phase to assist in the development of services for children who have been victims of child abuse and CSEC.

The results provide the basis for understanding the extent of CA and CSEC in East Timor. Over one hundred and three cases of child abuse and CSEC were reported, with the majority of cases affecting one child (89%). The general trend suggests that the majority of offenders are young males who are often a member of the family or someone known to the victim. Of all cases documented, the victim was usually a female, (61%) with the mean age of all the victims at the time of the abuse at 11.5 years. The abuse was often ongoing (54%) with many children still at risk without adequate and specialist support.

Approximately one third of the cases had gone unreported. Reasons included: a) resolution and mediation of problem within the family; b) agencies felt the abuse was a "family matter", or c) some agencies such as national NGOs did not want to get involved in the problem

The present findings indicate that child abuse in East Timor is a concerning problem. Despite a small sample size the trend follows similar results to those in other countries where research and service development has been more extensive. Further investigation of the problem will need to take place.

If child abuse and other forms of violence and exploitation of children are to be seriously addressed in East Timor, an integrated response from a wide variety of agencies: police, lawyers, health and welfare professionals, teachers and the community need to be informed and willing to be part of a concerted effort to bring about such change.

Recommendations:

Further Research and Assessment

1. Further investigation on the prevalence of child abuse and exploitation in East Timor.
2. Develop a clinical assessment tool to measure the psychological, emotional and behavioral consequences of family violence/ and witnessing/experiencing violence.

¹ For the purpose of this study, a child was defined as 18 years and under.

3. Establish a national database on child abuse and exploitation to assist in the development of services and legislations.

Prevention and Community Education

4. To initiate a coordinated response to possible reported cases of child abuse and exploitation which involves a mobile unit.
5. Explore community attitudes towards/perceptions of child abuse, domestic/family violence and child exploitation.
6. Develop and implement a community awareness strategy to address child abuse, domestic/family violence and exploitation.

Development of capacity and legislation

7. To develop and implement a training program for professionals in all relevant sectors on how to respond and treat victims of abuse and violence.
8. To initiate a framework to establish guiding principles for all professionals responsible in the area of child abuse and exploitation.

BACKGROUND

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

'... all appropriate measures should be taken to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of; any form of neglect, exploitation or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment... Such recovery should take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child'. (Article 39)

Child abuse is a complex and serious problem that may occur in the lives of children, young people and their families. Often it occurs in environments that are isolated and stressful and affects those who are most vulnerable. Child abuse refers to non-accidental physical injury, neglect, psychological harm or sexual exploitation of children² requires different and specialized response. In its most serious forms abuse can lead to death or long-term harm to the physical or emotional well being of a child or young person (NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2000).

Consultation with UNICEF, Department of Social Services, Human Rights and various agencies have indicated an emerging problem of child abuse (CA) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in East Timor. The Human Rights Office in East Timor and the Department of Social Services have documented several cases of severe physical and sexual abuse of children. Investigation of reported cases in the community have suggested that the problem could be more widespread.

Key agencies have already indicated that child abuse and CSEC should be given priority. PRADET Timor Lorosa'e (Recuperacao no Desenvolvimento ba Trauma no Psicossocial iha Timor Lorosa'e), a national NGO, which provides psychosocial and trauma services has trained East Timorese community counsellors, with specialized skills to assess trauma and violence in the family and community.

In order to investigate the prevalence of child abuse and CSEC in East Timor, a pilot study was undertaken by PRADET Timor Lorosa'e in collaboration with UNICEF, Department of Social Services and Labor and the Human Rights Unit. Before specific responses such as specialised services and policies can be developed to address child abuse and CSEC, data needs to be collected to understand the scope of the problem. Thus the aim of the study was to assess the extent of child abuse and CSEC so that recommendations could be made.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the pilot study was to investigate the prevalence of CSEC and child abuse in East Timor. The objectives were to:

- a) conduct a preliminary assessment on the extent of child abuse and CSEC in Dili and selected districts in order to develop strategies to address the problem
- b) provide recommendations for a second phase to assist in the development of services for children who have been victims of child abuse and CSEC.

² For the purpose of this study, a child was defined as 18 years and under.

METHODOLOGY

Sample and Procedure

In consultation with UNICEF, the Department of Social Services, and the Human Rights Office, and other key agencies, PRADET developed a series of questionnaires to document cases of child abuse and CSEC in East Timor.

For a period of one month, a multidisciplinary team consisting of a project coordinator, and PRADET counsellors conducted a series of interviews in the districts of Dili, Aileu, Ermera, Liquica and Lospalos. Data was collected from selected agencies known to have information on reported cases of child abuse or CSEC. Key agencies providing services to children such as places of sanctuary, health clinics, CivPol, NGOs, schools and Government departments were targeted for the study. Data from remaining districts was also collected through the assistance of the national headquarters at the Human Rights Unit and CivPol Vulnerable Person's Unit (VPU).

Through a process of consultation with the project partners, a selection of various agencies and institutions were invited to participate in the study covering a broad spectrum of all sectors (see Appendix A). Interviews were conducted over one, or if necessary two sessions in three possible languages, Tetum, English and Indonesian. All participants provided written consent to document the data and participants and cases were identified with an identification number.

Measures

The assessment tool was developed by PRADET in consultation with the key partners. The tool was used as a semi-structured interview to assess demographic variables such as gender, age, level of education, employment and marital status of the victim and offender. In-depth interviews were also conducted to illicit information on the case history of the abuse, psychosocial problems within the family and recommendations to address child abuse and CSEC (see Appendix B).

RESULTS

A one-month preliminary assessment was conducted to investigate the extent of child abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the districts of Dili, Liquica, Aileu, Ermera and Los Palos. In total, thirty-eight international and East Timorese participants from various agencies were interviewed. They included representatives in the government, international and national NGOs, the Church, clinics and UN agencies (See Appendix C).

Of all interviews conducted, a total of one hundred and three cases of child abuse and CSEC were documented. The majority of cases (89%) were individual victims, however there were reports of multiple victims (11%) with one case of neglect affecting 26 children (See Table 1). In two cases of child slavery and CSEC, the exact number of children was unknown, but recorded as multiple victims.

Table 1 *Number of Children Affected by Child Abuse and CSEC*

| <i>Number of Victims</i> | <i>No. of Cases (n=103)</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 child | 92 | 89% |
| 2 children | 5 | 5% |

| | | |
|-------------|---|----|
| 3 children | 1 | 1% |
| 4 children | 1 | 1% |
| 11 children | 1 | 1% |
| 26 children | 1 | 1% |
| Unknown | 2 | 2% |

Profile of agencies interviewed (see Appendix C)

Thirty-eight representatives from various agencies such as the Government ((23%), NGOs (36%) as well as health clinics (18%) were interviewed. The majority of cases were collected from Government departments, which included the Human Rights Office and CivPol (Vulnerable Person’s Unit) (42%). International and national NGOs (37%) were the second largest source of information on cases of child abuse and CSEC.

Demographic characteristics of children (see Appendix C)

Over one hundred and three cases of child abuse and CSEC were reported, with the majority of cases affecting one child (89%). Of all cases documented, 69 (61%) were female and the mean age of all the victims at the time of the abuse was 11.5 years. The youngest child was 2 weeks and the oldest 18 years. Almost half the children (49%) were attending primary or junior high school.

Demographic characteristics of offenders (see Appendix C)

The majority of offenders who had committed the abuse were men (82%). Most of the offenders were aged between 21 – 30 years (34%), however in 52 cases (44%) the age of the offender was unknown. Over one third of offenders (38%) were married and only forty-one were employed (34%). The level of education of offenders was difficult to determine as 83 cases (70%) had not been recorded by the agency.

Types of Abuse (see Appendix C)

The study identified 10 types of abuse towards children, with the majority of them being victims of sexual abuse (30%) or physical abuse (26%) (see Table 2). Fifty-six (54%) children experienced one type of abuse, with the remaining children (46%) experiencing two or more. Girls were more likely to be sexually assaulted with forty-eight (85%) reported cases. Of those sexually assaulted, at least four cases of pregnancy had been identified as a result of the abuse. It is unknown whether the victims gave birth or had abortions.

Table 2 Summary of cases

| Type of Abuse | No. of Cases | Percentage | Gender of Child | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------|
| | | | Male | Female |
| Sexual Assault | 53 | 30% | 6 | 48 |
| CSEC | 7 | 4% | 3 | 5 |
| Physical | 46 | 26% | 24 | 27 |
| Emotional/Psychological | 11 | 6% | 3 | 10 |
| Neglect | 20 | 11% | 13 | 6 |
| Child Slavery/Forced Labor | 10 | 6% | 6 | 5 |
| Separated Child/Orphan | 14 | 8% | 7 | 7 |
| Street Child | 7 | 4% | 6 | 0 |
| Death | 3 | 2% | 0 | 3 |
| Other | 6 | 3% | 4 | 5 |

Extent of Abuse (see Appendix C)

More than half the children (54%) experienced the abuse on an ongoing basis, whilst for thirty-nine cases (38%) the experience had been an isolated incident. A family member was more likely to commit the abuse (55%) (see Table 3) which often took place in the home (44%) or in a public place (22%). The district of Dili had recorded the highest number of cases (40%). According to participants, more than half (58%) the victims were not considered to be in immediate danger of further abuse. However, fifteen (35%) cases of ongoing abuse were still considered to be in danger.

Predictors of Child Abuse and CSEC (see Appendix C)

In thirty-nine cases (26%) the difficulties experienced by the family was not known as agencies had not elicited information from the family. Poverty (20%) was identified as one of the main factors currently affecting the child's family. Child separation or returnee (13%), domestic violence (5%) and a mental illness or trauma (4%) in the family was also identified as problems. Other difficulties (20%), included a need for education or a lack of education, concern for the future of the child, particularly for young girls and their future prospect for marriage, belief in witchcraft, no safe place for recovery, adjustment after abuse, shame and stress after the abuse.

Table 3 *Situation of Family*

| <i>Family Difficulties</i> | <i>No. of Problems</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Poverty | 30 | 20% |
| Alcohol Abuse | 4 | 3% |
| Gambling | 4 | 3% |
| Trauma/Mental Illness | 6 | 4% |
| Domestic Violence | 8 | 5% |
| Lack of Justice | 4 | 3% |
| Returnee/Separated child | 20 | 13% |
| Single parent | 3 | 2% |
| Others | 30 | 20% |
| Unknown | 39 | 26% |
| None | 1 | 1% |

Reporting of Cases (see Appendix C)

Of all cases collected, a majority were reported (71%) to the Government (39%) or to International (12%) and National NGOs (13%) (see graph Table 4). The source of information was often provided by the victim (19%) or a family member (28%). The findings, also revealed twenty four cases of unreported abuse (23%), of which seventeen were ongoing abuses.

Table 4 *Reporting of Child Abuse and CSEC*

| <i>Agency</i> | <i>Reported Abuse</i> | <i>Did Not Report</i> | <i>Don't Know</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Government | 40 (39%) | 1 (1%) | 3 (3%) |
| International NGO | 12 (12%) | 2 (2%) | - |
| National NGO | 13 (13%) | 10 (10%) | - |
| Church | 1 (1%) | 4 (4%) | - |
| Schools | - | 1 (1%) | - |
| Clinics | 5 (5%) | 6 (6%) | 1 (1%) |
| UN Agencies | 2 (2%) | - | - |

Recommendations for Prevention of Child Abuse and CSEC *(see Appendix C)*

The study also conducted in-depth interviews with participants to gain a general overview of the possible needs to address child abuse and CSEC in East Timor. The qualitative data revealed the following themes: a) pre and post marriage counselling; b) development of the Department of Social Services, welfare system and capacity of social workers; c) education campaigns targeted at the community, schools and parents; safe shelter for victims and; d) counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services for victims and offenders.

Profile of Cases³

Case A

Case A is a 12 year old female who has been sexually abused by a male relative. Upon discovering the abuse, the family decided to resolve the problem through the Traditional Justice. As punishment for his behavior, it was decided that the male relative would pay one buffalo and a small amount of money to the family. The male relative was unable to honour his debt. Consequently, the family reported the outstanding debt to CivPol who upon gathering information discovered the daughter had been sexually assaulted.

CivPol recommended that the case be dealt with by the judicial system but the family refused. The family eventually resolved the matter by sending the child to live with another relative in a distant village

Case B

Case B is a 9 year boy who is separated from his family. His parents and siblings remain in the West Timor camps. As a result, Case B lives in Dili with his relatives who treat him differently from the other children. He is only fed once a day and is forced to carry out numerous household chores. If his carers are not satisfied with his work, they will physically beat him then tell him to eat with the dog.

After an attempt to run away, he was caught and tied up. As a form of punishment, he was severely punched and kicked until he became unconscious. Case B continues to receive ongoing physical abuse and neglect.

Case C

Case C is a 14 year old girl who was taken by a stranger and raped in a burnt out building. She was forced to carry out numerous sexual acts on the offender who later physically beat her. Her parents went to report the assault to CivPol to seek justice but the Courts dismissed the case on the grounds that there was not enough evidence to support her case. The offender has since been released whilst the victim remains locked in her home severely traumatized.

DISCUSSION

The central aim of the pilot study was to conduct an assessment of the extent of child abuse and CSEC in East Timor. The general trend indicates that girls (61%) are more likely to experience child abuse than boys, with sexual abuse affecting predominately girls (85%). This supports findings in other countries where the prevalence of sexual abuse in males (16%) is lower than in females (Green 1993). The pilot study found no reported cases of young girls living on the street.

³ The following cases do not represent any particular individual from the study. The history of the cases are based on common characteristics emerging from the sample.

It was difficult to establish a detailed demographic profile of offenders as information was often unrecorded by agencies. No specific age could be provided on the offender nor the level of education. However, the results indicate offenders are mostly young men.

All victims experienced at least one type of abuse, but it is likely that most children had experienced more than one type. The number of cases of emotional and psychological abuse is considered to be low, which could possibly indicate that the presenting problem was more likely to be reported. For example, sexual or physical abuse was often recorded as an isolated problem with no assessment of other possible abuse affecting the child such as emotional abuse.

For more than half the children, the abuse was ongoing, with at least one third still considered to be in danger of further abuse. A significant number of these cases had also been unreported.

Reporting of cases

At least ten percent of reported cases had sought resolution through the traditional justice system. Although the data revealed a high percentage of cases being reported to authorities, this was not the first point of reporting. Often cases were reported after family mediation or traditional justice had been unsuccessful.

Approximately one third of the cases had gone unreported. Reasons included: a) resolution and mediation of problem within the family; b) agencies felt the abuse was a “family matter”, or c) some agencies such as national NGOs did not want to get involved in the problem, but were willing to provide medical treatment. In other instances the child was sent away to live with other relatives, which they felt would resolve the problem by distancing the child from the offender.

LIMITATIONS

These results, although providing revealing data on child abuse and CSEC in East Timor, need to be tempered by the limitations of the study. Firstly the time frame of the study limited the number of agencies who could be interviewed and thus the number of cases. Access to outlying districts was not possible during the pilot study, indicating a skewed result of reported cases in Dili and surrounding areas.

It needs to be recognised that this is a pilot study and the sample size is not large enough to draw any firm conclusions. Further research is required with larger sample sizes to fully assess the extent of child abuse and CSEC in East Timor. This will need to include interviews from primary sources such as the victim and the family, to avoid missing data. A clinical assessment should also be included in the interview to address possible sequelae of abuse, violence and exploitation.

Furthermore, the data collected was obtained from what would be considered ‘authoritative figures’. It is well documented in other studies that incidents of child abuse and violence are often unreported, especially to authorities (James 1994). It is likely that there are still numerous cases in the community not yet reported, including higher incidents of emotional and psychological abuse. The high prevalence of sexual and physical abuse suggests that disclosure of severe cases are more likely to be reported. Further investigation in the community will provide a fuller extent and understanding of the problem.

It was evident throughout the investigation that a systematic mechanism for reporting by agencies was unclear and inconsistent. A standard comprehensive tool for reporting cases of abuse did not exist. Consequently the process of data collection in the study was difficult as significant pieces of information was often unrecorded by agencies, making it difficult to analyze the data and draw conclusions. General information about the background of the victim, the family and offender was often unknown, suggesting that case workers were often uncertain on how to respond or illicit specific information once it was disclosed.

The pilot study also revealed that procedures for follow up on reported cases, particularly for children at risk of further abuse had not been developed. This indicates a need for specialist training in this area to appropriately response, monitor, manage and support victims of abuse and CSEC.

CONCLUSION

This pilot study provides the basis for an understanding of the extent of CA and CSEC in East Timor. The general trend suggests that the majority of offenders are males who are often a member of the family or someone known to the victim. The victims were usually girls, although there was no clear distinction between genders for physical abuse. The abuse was often ongoing with many children still at risk without adequate and specialist support.

The present findings indicate that child abuse in East Timor is an emerging problem. Despite a small sample size the trend follows similar results to those in other countries where research and service development has been more extensive. Further investigation of the problem will need to take place.

If child abuse and other forms of violence and exploitation of children are to be seriously addressed in East Timor, an integrated response from a wide variety of agencies: police, lawyers, health and welfare professionals, teachers and the community need to be informed and willing to be part of a concerted effort to bring about such change (James 1994). Changes in definitions and parameters of child abuse and domestic violence, as well as legislative reform, though necessary, are not sufficient to bring about a fundamental shift in attitude by the community at large.

FUTURE RESEARCH

The pilot study provides preliminary data on the prevalence of child abuse and CSEC in East Timor. The results suggest a concerning problem emerging in the community which has not been addressed. Furthermore, the study highlighted the lack of resources, skills and understanding of the problem in every sector. Furthermore, the consequences of child abuse have yet to be investigated. In other countries, research has found that the traumatic impact of physical and sexual abuse on child victims has produced a variety of anxiety disorders (nightmares, fearfulness), disturbances in affect (dissociation, amnesia) and impaired impulse control such as aggression. Thus any further research in East Timor will need to document the full impact of violence and exploitation on the child so relevant interventions can be developed so that the child is less likely to be adversely affected by the traumatic experiences later in life (Green 1993).

Any attempt to understand the full extent of CA and CSEC in the community will also need to include other forms of violence and abuse in the community. Domestic violence is one of the five main criminal acts currently being prosecuted by the State, in East Timor. The

consequences of domestic violence on children have yet to be understood. Therefore it is proposed that in addition to child abuse and CSEC, children affected by violence at home or intra-familial violence be also included in the second phase of the project.

According to studies, domestic violence also affects the child either as witnesses to or victims of the conflict (James 1994). Children are affected when they live with violent behavior in the home. They may be fearful for their abused parent and their own safety. At other times the children are caught in the physical violence and can be injured.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these preliminary findings, the following recommendations and steps have been suggested for consideration for the next phase:

Further Research and Assessment

1. Further investigation on the prevalence of child abuse and exploitation in East Timor, which will include interviews with agencies, community members, families and children.
2. Develop a clinical assessment tool to measure the psychological, emotional and behavioral consequences of family violence/ and witnessing/experiencing violence.
3. Establish a national database on child abuse and exploitation to assist in the development of services and legislations.
4. Further consultation with key stakeholders such as Government departments, NGOs, and the church, to expand and make more complete the profiles of violence programs.

Prevention and Community Education

5. To initiate a coordinated response to possible reported cases of child abuse and exploitation which involves a mobile unit.
6. Explore community attitudes towards/perceptions of child abuse, domestic/family violence and child exploitation.
7. Assess the level of understanding and causes⁴ of child abuse, domestic/family violence and exploitation in the community.
8. Explore the barriers to disclosure of child abuse, domestic/family violence and exploitation.
9. Develop and implement a community awareness strategy to address child abuse, domestic/family violence and exploitation. This involves primary prevention programs such as community education campaigns involving use of the mass media, education through the publication of information packages, pamphlets and videos as well as school programs for children.

Development of capacity and legislation

10. To develop and implement a training program for professionals in all relevant sectors on how to respond and treat victims of abuse and violence.
11. To initiate a framework to establish guiding principles for all professionals responsible in the area of child abuse and exploitation.

⁴ Which include: a) Precipitating causes – one or more particular events that trigger a violent episode; b) Situational factors – such as alcohol abuse, financial problems, unemployment; c) Underlying factors – include the historical circumstances (Memcott et al 2001).

Target Population

During the study, the following groups will be targeted. Children who have been:

- Sexually abused
- Physically abused
- Emotionally and psychologically abused
- Neglected,
- Separated and/or adopted/fostered,
- Street children
- Orphans
- Witnesses to domestic violence
- in forced marriages,
- Experienced severe trauma and mass violence during Indonesian occupation,
- Adult survivors of child abuse and survivors of incest.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF AGENCIES PARTICIPATING

Government Departments

- ❖ Department of Social Services, Labour and Solidarity
- ❖ Ministry of Health
- ❖ Legal Office, UNTAET
- ❖ VPU, district and national office
- ❖ Human Rights Unit and districts and National
- ❖ Clinic, Aileu
- ❖ Nursing Academy

UN Agencies

- ❖ UNICEF
- ❖ UNIFEM

International NGOs

- ❖ Christian Children's Fund (CCF)
- ❖ International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- ❖ Bairo Pite Clinic
- ❖ PRADET, Australia

National NGOs

- ❖ LIBERTA
- ❖ Forum Komunikasi
- ❖ Fokupers
- ❖ Yaysan Hak
- ❖ GIBDA
- ❖ Creche 12
- ❖ Moris Foun

Schools and Church members

- ❖ UIN, Mary Knowles Sisters, Aileu
- ❖ Cannosian School
- ❖ Salesian Primary School

APPENDIX B: Section 1: Information Sheet & Consent Form

INFORMATION SHEET

**A PILOT STUDY ON CHILD ABUSE AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN EAST TIMOR**

PRADET Timor Lorosa'e, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Department of Social Services and Labour and the Human Rights Centre is conducting a pilot study to investigate the **extent of child abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in East Timor.**

Child abuse according to UN Convention Rights of the Child Article 19:

“Any act of physical, sexual or mental abuse and criminal neglect where the victim is a child.”

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) according to UNICEF means:

“...children (18 years and younger) both male and female, engaging in sexual activities for money, profit, or any other consideration due to coercion or influence by any adult, syndicate or group. CSEC is distinguished from sexual abuse, by the fact that some financial profit or material exchange is achieved by some party to the sexual activity.”

We are asking anyone working in the legal/judicial, health, education, social and church services who may have contact with children who have been abused both physically, sexually, emotionally, as well sexually exploited for commercial gains. If you agree to participate in the pilot study, you will be asked to answer some questions on your knowledge and contact with abused children.

We are hoping that the information you give will enable us to provide recommendations to develop services and policies that can prevent and treat people who have been abused.

We would like you to keep this form in case you have any questions.

If you have any queries please contact:

Kristina Tang 0419 120 107
(English, Tetun)

Kylie Tallo 0408 155964
(English, Bhs Indonesian)

Ivo Freitas 0409 225 184
(Tetun, Bhs Indonesian, English)

Jannie Kramer 0438 731 038
(English, Bhs Indonesian)

CONSENT FORM

1. I agree to be involved in this pilot study on Child abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in East Timor as outlined in the information sheet.
 2. I have read/had explained to me the contents of the information sheet which explains why I have been selected, the aims of the study and any possible results.
 3. Before signing the form, I have been given the opportunity of asking any questions relating to the study and I have received satisfactory answers.
 4. I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time.
 5. I agree that research data gathered from the results of the study may be published, provided that my identity remains confidential.
 6. I understand that if I have any questions about participation in this study I can contact Kristina Tang, Kylie Tallo, Ivo Freitas, or Jannie Kramer.
-

YOU ARE MAKING A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, HAVING READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE.

Participant

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Witness/Interpreter

Name: _____

Signature: _____

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

Section 2: Questionnaire

PRADET TIMOR LOROSA'E

**CHILD ABUSE AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN EAST TIMOR
PILOT STUDY**

CHECKLIST

| <u>Questionnaires</u> | Completed | Date & Time completed |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Initial Interview</u> | | |
| 1. Information Sheet & Consent Form | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2. Part A: General Information | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3. Part B: Information on CA | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4. Part C: Information on CSEC | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5. Part D: Recommendations | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Subject ID No: | |
| Date: | |
| Interviewer: | |
| District: | |

GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERVIEWER

Ensure that you cover the following before you begin the interview sessions.

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Outline the project and its purpose. Provide them with an information sheet. (NB. Explain the importance of the project in terms of developing services and policies for abused children.).
3. Explain the questionnaires and emphasise that everything will be strictly confidential. Also explain that notes will be taken but will remain confidential.
4. Explain the consent form and get the participant to sign it. Inform them that they do not have to answer any questions which they are not comfortable with and that they can stop the interviews whenever they want.
5. At anytime the participant may express their concerns to any of the interviewers.

Have I done the following:

| CHECKLIST | DONE |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Provided & explained the information sheet. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Consent Form | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Explain confidentiality & control process (ie. The participant is in control). | <input type="checkbox"/> |

INVESTIGATION ON CHILD ABUSE AND CSEC

Part A

General Information

- 1 Date of interview: _____
- 2 District: _____
- 3 Agency: _____
- 4 Position in Agency: _____
- 5 Length of Employment: _____
- 6 Age of interviewee: _____
- 7 Sex of interviewee: _____

Part B Information on abuse

The following questions will ask you about any information you may have on children who have been treated badly or abused.

The answer to the questions will be kept confidential.

- 8a Do you know any cases of children being mistreated or abused? _____
- 8b How many do you know about? _____
- 9 How did you find out about the case?

- 10 Source of referral/information:
 - a) NGO
 - b) Victim
 - c) Family member
 - d) Teacher
 - e) Community
 - f) Other (please specify): _____
- 11 What is the reason why the person told you about the problem (child abuse/CSEC)?

- 12 When did you find out about the

problem?

13 Briefly describe the Abuse:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Nature of abuse (NB Can be more than one problem) | a) Sexual |
| | b) CSEC |
| | c) Physical |
| | d) emotional |
| | e) neglect |
| | f) other (please specify) |

14 Information on the victim

- a Sex of the victim _____
- b At what age did the abuse start? _____
- c What is the age of the victim now? _____
- d Education level of the victim _____

15 Information on the offender

- a Sex of the Offender _____
- b Age of the offender at time the abuse started _____
- c Current age of the offender _____
- d Marital Status _____
- e Education level _____
- f Employment Status _____
- g Usual Occupation _____

16 What was the relationship of the offender to the child?

17 When did the offence occur?

18 If possible, indicate the duration of abuse.

19 Where did the offence occur?

20 Level of protection. Is the child in immediate danger?

a) yes

b) no

21 Describe briefly the difficulties currently facing the child and his/her family.

22 Has the case been reported?

a) No (If not why)

b) Yes

23 If yes, who was it report to?

a) Human rights office

b) CivPol

c) Health professional

d) church

e) Others (please specify)

24 Have you referred the child to any other agencies or persons to receive support?

If yes, which agencies or persons?

Part C Information on CSEC

The following questions will ask you to tell us about any cases of CSEC and whether you have any knowledge of children with CSEC.

The answer to the questions will be kept confidential.

25 Do you know of any children who are involved in CSEC?

26 Briefly describe how the child was exploited.

27 Source of referral/information:

- a) victim
- b) family member
- c) teacher
- d) community
- e) other (please specify):

28 Why did the person tell you about the problem (CSEC)?

29 When did you find out about the problem?

30 Information on the victim

a Sex of the victim

b At what age did CSEC start?

c What is the age of the victim now?

d Education level of the victim

31 Information on the offender

a Sex of the Offender

b Current age of the offender

c Marital Status

d Education level

e Employment Status

F Usual Occupation

32 What was the relationship of the offender to the victim?

33 When did the offence occur?

34 If possible, indicate the duration of CSEC.

35 Where did it occur?

36 Level of protection. Is the child in immediate danger?

a) Yes

b) No

37 Describe briefly the difficulties currently facing the child and his/her family.

38 Has the case been reported?

a) No (If not why)

b) Yes

39 If yes, who was it report to?

a) Human rights office

b) CivPol

c) Health professional

d) church

e) Others (please specify)

40 Have you referred the child to any other agencies or persons to receive support? Which agencies or persons?

Part D: Recommendations

The following questions will ask you to describe your experiences in working with children and to discuss some of the Needs to improve services for children.

41 In the past, were there procedures for cases of child abuse? Please describe.

42 What steps do you take when you hear about cases of child abuse.

43 What do you think needs to be done to prevent child abuse and CSEC?

44 Do you have any other comments you would like to include?

APPENDIX C

FREQUENCY OF VARIABLES**Part A General Information of Participants****Figure 1** *Number of Agencies Interviewed*

| <i>Type of Agency</i> | <i>No. of participants (n=38)</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Government Department | 9 | 23% |
| International NGO | 4 | 10% |
| National NGO | 10 | 26% |
| Church | 2 | 5% |
| Schools | 2 | 5% |
| Clinics | 7 | 18% |
| UN Agency | 5 | 13% |

Figure 2 *Number of Cases collected per Agency*

| <i>Type of Agency</i> | <i>No. of cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Government | 44 | 41% |
| INGO | 16 | 15% |
| National NGO | 24 | 23% |
| Church | 5 | 5% |
| Schools | 1 | 1% |
| Clinics | 13 | 12% |
| UN Agency | 3 | 3% |

Part B General Information on Victims**Figure 1** *Number of Children Affected by Child Abuse or CSEC*

| <i>Number of Victims</i> | <i>No. Of Cases (N=103)</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Child | 92 | 89% |
| 2 children | 5 | 5% |
| 3 children | 1 | 1% |
| 4 children | 1 | 1% |
| 11 children | 1 | 1% |
| 26 children | 1 | 1% |
| Unknown | 2 | 2% |

Figure 2 *Gender of Victims*

| <i>Gender</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 42 | 38% |
| Female | 69 | 61% |
| Unknown | 1 | 1% |
| | 112 | 100% |

Figure 3 Education Levels of Victims

| <i>Education Level of Victim</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Kindergarten | 2 | 2% |
| Primary | 32 | 29% |
| Junior High | 22 | 20% |
| Senior High | 2 | 2% |
| Unknown | 40 | 35% |
| No schooling | 6 | 5% |
| NA | 8 | 7% |
| | | 100% |

Figure 4 Summary of cases

| <i>Type of Abuse</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | <i>Gender of Child</i> | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
| Sexual Assault | 53 | 30% | 6 | 48 |
| CSEC | 7 | 4% | 3 | 5 |
| Physical | 46 | 26% | 24 | 27 |
| Emotional/Psychological | 11 | 6% | 3 | 10 |
| Neglect | 20 | 11% | 13 | 6 |
| Child Slavery/Forced Labor | 10 | 6% | 6 | 5 |
| Separated Child/Orphan | 14 | 8% | 7 | 7 |
| Street Child | 7 | 4% | 6 | 0 |
| Death | 3 | 2% | 0 | 3 |
| Other | 6 | 3% | 4 | 5 |

Part C General Information on Offenders

Figure 5 Gender of Offender

| <i>Gender of Offenders</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 101 | 82% |
| Female | 16 | 13% |
| Unknown | 6 | 5% |

Figure 6 Numbers of Offenders

| <i>Number of Offenders</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Offender | 82 | 82% |
| 2 offenders | 10 | 10% |
| 3 offenders | 5 | 5% |
| 4 offenders | 1 | 1% |
| 7 offenders | 1 | 1% |
| Multiple | 1 | 1% |
| | | 100% |

Figure 7 Age of Offender

| <i>Age Group</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 15-20 years | 10 | 9% |
| 21-30 years | 23 | 19% |
| 31-40 years | 17 | 15% |
| 41-50 years | 12 | 10% |
| More than 50 years | 3 | 3% |
| Unknown | 52 | 44% |

Figure 8 Marital Status of Offender

| <i>Marital Status</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Single | 17 | 14% |
| Married | 45 | 38% |
| Separated/Divorced | 1 | 1% |
| Widow/er | 2 | 2% |
| Other | 1 | 1% |
| Unknown | 50 | 42% |
| NA | 2 | 2% |

Figure 9 Education Level of Offender

| <i>Education Level</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Primary | 6 | 5% |
| Junior High | 4 | 3% |
| Senior High | 8 | 7% |
| College | 6 | 5% |
| University | 5 | 4% |
| Unknown | 83 | 70% |
| No schooling | 4 | 3% |
| NA | 3 | 3% |

Figure 10 Employment Status of Offender

| <i>Employment Status</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Employed | 41 | 34% |
| Unemployed | 12 | 11% |
| Unknown | 66 | 55% |

Part D Information on Abuse**Figure 11** *Number of Abuses Experienced by the Victim*

| <i>Abuse Experienced</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One Only | 57 | 54% |
| Two | 28 | 26% |
| Three or more | 21 | 20% |

Figure 12 *Pattern of Abuse*

| <i>Pattern of Abuse</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Isolated Incident | 39 | 38% |
| Twice | 1 | 1% |
| Three times or ongoing | 56 | 54% |
| Unknown | 7 | 7% |

Figure 13 *Place where Abuse Occurred*

| <i>Place of Offence</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Home | 46 | 44% |
| School | 5 | 5% |
| Public Place | 22 | 22% |
| Orphanage | 1 | 1% |
| West Timor Camps | 6 | 6% |
| Other | 15 | 15% |
| Unknown | 7 | 7% |

Figure 14 *District where abuse occurred*

| <i>District</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Dili | 42 | 40% |
| Liquica | 7 | 7% |
| Ermera | 5 | 5% |
| Aileu | 12 | 11% |
| Manatuto | 6 | 6% |
| Los Palos | 5 | 5% |
| Ainaro | 5 | 5% |
| Baucau | 3 | 3% |
| Viqueque | 1 | 1% |
| Bobonaro | 4 | 4% |
| Cova Lima | 4 | 4% |
| Oecussi | 2 | 2% |
| West Timor | 7 | 7% |

Figure 15 Relationship between child and offender

| <i>Relationship</i> | <i>No. Of Cases</i> <i>N=116</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Biological Parent | 25 | 22% |
| Step parent/Foster Parent | 11 | 9% |
| Uncle/Aunt | 12 | 10% |
| Grandparent | 3 | 3% |
| Sibling | 2 | 2% |
| Other relative | 11 | 9% |
| Acquaintance/Friend/Neighbor | 6 | 5% |
| Teacher | 10 | 9% |
| Stranger (East Timorese) | 12 | 10% |
| Stranger (International) | 4 | 3% |
| Militia | 17 | 15% |
| Others | 3 | 3% |

Figure 16 Level of Protection of Child

| <i>Risk of Danger</i> | <i>No. of Cases</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 28 | 27% |
| No | 60 | 58% |
| Unknown | 15 | 15% |

Figure 17 Situation of Family

| <i>Family Difficulties</i> | <i>No. of Problems</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Poverty | 30 | 20% |
| Alcohol Abuse | 4 | 3% |
| Gambling | 4 | 3% |
| Trauma/Mental Illness | 6 | 4% |
| Domestic Violence | 8 | 5% |
| Lack of Justice | 4 | 3% |
| Returnee/Separated child | 20 | 13% |
| Single parent | 3 | 2% |
| Others | 30 | 20% |
| Unknown | 39 | 26% |
| None | 1 | 1% |
| | 149 | 100% |

Part E Method Of Reporting

Figure 18 Number of cases Reported

| <i>Reporting of Abuse</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 73 | 71% |
| No | 24 | 23% |
| Don't know | 6 | 6% |

Figure 19 *List of Agencies Reporting Cases of Child Abuse and CSEC*

| <i>Agency</i> | <i>Cases Reported</i> | <i>Cases Unreported</i> | <i>Don't Know</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Government | 40 | 1 | |
| International NGO | 12 | 2 | |
| National NGO | 13 | 10 | |
| Church | 1 | 4 | |
| Schools | - | 1 | |
| Clinics | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| UN Agencies | 2 | - | |

Figure 20 *Source of Information*

| <i>Source</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| NGO | 3 | 3% |
| Victim | 20 | 19% |
| Family | 30 | 28% |
| Community | 11 | 11% |
| Human Rights | 12 | 12% |
| CivPol | 11 | 11% |
| Church | 3 | 3% |
| Others | 13 | 13% |

Figure 21 *Agencies Where Referred/Reported*

| <i>Agency</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Human Rights | 22 | 19% |
| CivPol | 44 | 37% |
| Health Clinic | 10 | 8% |
| Church | 6 | 5% |
| Other | 36 | 31% |

Figure 22 *Recommendations to Prevent CA and CSEC*

| <i>Themes</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|---|---------------|
| Pre and Post marriage and pre and post natal counselling, sex education, family planning on rights of the child | 7 |
| Health and education programs | 2 |
| Provision of schools and child activity centres, church activities | 9 |
| Development of Dept Social Services, welfare system, social workers | 10 |
| Education programs on child rights channelled through NGOs, church | 7 |
| Education programs for community, schools, parents on child rights | 26 |
| Development and implementation of legislation and polices on child rights | 3 |
| Safety shelter for victims, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services for victims and offenders | 9 |
| Increase role of human rights | 2 |
| NGOs to have special divisions and training to identify children in need | 2 |
| HIV/Aids education | 2 |
| Access to information regarding child rights | 1 |
| Continuity in collection of evidence, report writing and recording of data | 2 |
| Further research to understand causes of CA | 2 |

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