

WORK SHOP REPORT

Title of workshop : Thematic Session 1b : Forms and Underlying Causes of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: Economic Factors and Sexual Exploitation of Children

Number of persons attending: Approx. 85 people

Workshop facilitator: Margie de Monchy, Regional Advisor, Child Protection, UNICEF ESARO

Workshop presenters (name, organization, e-mail):

Introduction: Dr. Abiola Tilley-Gyado, Pan African Relationships Manager, Plan International

Panel presentations

- 1) Social Protection: UNICEF ESARO Regional Strategy:
Margie de Monchy, Regional Advisor Child Protection UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa
- 2) Kenya Cash Transfer Programmes for OVC: Potential Benefits for Reducing Sexual Exploitation of Children
Elizabeth Mugwanga Mbuka, Chief Children's Officer, Department of Children's Services, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development
Birgithe Lund-Henriksen, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Kenya
- 3) ILO Experience in Social Protection
Vera Lucia Paquete-Perdigão, Specialiste Technique Principal Travail des enfants (Senior Child Labour Specialist) Dakar, Sénégal
Grace Banya, Technical Adviser, ILO-IPEC, Kenya

Objectives of workshop:

To understand the momentum in Africa around social protection strategies and address the following questions:

- 1) How can social protection initiatives reduce the underlying causes of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents?
- 2) How can advocates for child protection become involved in the development and implementation of social protection strategies and policies to ensure that they contribute to reduction of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents?
- 3) What types of services are needed to compliment cash transfer programmes in order to better address sexual exploitation of children?
- 4) What is required to build evidence that social protection initiatives, such as social/cash transfers reduce sexual exploitation of children?

Key points from presentations and discussions

1) Introduction:

- Need to focus on underlying economic causes of CSEC - how to break cycles of poverty, particularly among women and children, and provide protective environment for them?
- NGOs have established a coordination mechanism to contribute to initiatives in Africa to reduce poverty and participate in social protection processes.
- AU is endorsing and promoting social protection – children's statement at the MTR of An Africa Fit for Children emphasised the points.

Opportunities for monitoring progress:

Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children (2008-2012)

African Union Commission commitments to monitor progress

- elaborate a "State of Africa's Children Report" every two years;
- conduct a review on progress made in implementing this Call and the Plan of Action every five years;
- strengthen the capacity of the ACERWC to follow up on the monitoring of key provisions of the Plan of Action and the Call;
- ensuring the inclusion of children's issues in the African Peer Review Mechanism

2) Social Protection Strategies and UNICEF ESAR Regional Strategy

Key issues:

- ✓ Although we lack comprehensive evidence, poverty is clearly one of the key underlying factors that puts children and adolescents at increased risk of SEA (*prostituted children, child domestic workers, trafficked children, and children involved in transactional sex are most often addressing their own survival needs and those of their families*)
- ✓ In Africa, children are among the most vulnerable in the world – poverty, HIV/AIDS, conflicts, natural disaster
- ✓ Keeping children with families and in schools has proven to be a protective factor
- ✓ Social protection strategies... momentum in the region

Social Protection Strategy:

- ✓ SP now recognised as viable in addressing poverty and vulnerability in developing countries
- ✓ Development partners mobilising around SP strategies as part of essential package of basic social services
- ✓ Child welfare and protection concerns are often at the heart of these SP efforts
- ✓ Requires a new approach that goes beyond the traditional economic focus

Transformative Social Protection:

- ✓ Preventive programs to avert deprivation or to mitigate the impact of an adverse shock
- ✓ Protective programs that offer relief from economic and social deprivation
- ✓ Promotive programs enhance assets, human capital and income earning capacity (i.e. micro-credit)
- ✓ Transformative interventions aimed at addressing social exclusion that includes legal and judicial reform, budgetary, etc.

Principles of Child Sensitive Social Protection

- provides coherent legal framework to protect women and children
- addresses age and gender specific vulnerabilities
- does not harm children
- special provisions to reach most vulnerable
- help realisation of rights
- empowers families and communities
- intervenes as early as possible to protect children

UNICEF Regional Strategy for ESAR

- Reform of the legal/policy and judicial system
- Targeted cash transfers to families to combat child poverty
- ECD to promote development among vulnerable children

- Social welfare and protective services for most vulnerable children
- Youth and adolescent development
- Cross-Cutting Strategies
 - Policy guidance and monitoring mechanisms
 - Research and information
 - Policy and strategy development
 - Implementation pilots
 - Integration into National development Plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy

AU holding 1st meeting of Ministers for Social Welfare and Development in October 2008 – presenting a paper on Social Protection – We need to look at opportunities to ensure that national social protection strategies impact prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

3) Government of Kenya: Kenya Cash Transfer Programmes for OVC

- FACTS:
 - 2.4 million OVC in Kenya; 48% due to HIV/AIDS, poor household, elderly care givers
 - Recent study shows 45% of children from researched communities involved in CSEC in tourism in 4 coast districts
 - 35.5% of all sex acts took place without condoms
- MGCSO Cash Transfer Programme – objectives:
 - To provide social protection system through regular cash transfers to families taking care of OVC;
 - To encourage fostering and retention of OVC within their families and communities;
 - To promote OVC human capital development
- Progress since 2004:
 - Started with 500 households - will reach 70,000 households in 47 districts by end of 2008.
 - National budget allocation increased from USD 800,000 to USD 9,000,000
 - External funding has increased, with commitments of more than \$150 million over the next 10 years (UNICEF, DFID, SIDA, WB)
 - Capacity building strategy is being implemented
 - Comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) is in place to support all operational processes of the programme
- Results to be monitored (Baseline 2007 and impact evaluation 2009)
 - Welfare and economic impacts of the beneficiaries (children in school, child labour/working children, birth registration, etc.)
 - Operational effectiveness including cost evaluation
 - Targeting effectiveness (extent to which the programme reaches those in greatest need)
- However, the challenges remain...
 - Lack of protection from SEA within family, community and schools
 - Need to put in place strong community based mechanisms to monitor children in families
 - Need to strengthen the formal social work system (monitoring/case management)
 - Introduction of complementary programmes promoted for targeted HH

4) Vera & Grace, ILO-IPEC: Forms and Underlying Causes of SEA – 3 Cases in Africa

- Key Messages

- Children, particularly girls, involved in other forms of child labour are at risk of being trapped in CSEC
 - A comprehensive response to prevent CSEC should include focus on fighting child labour
 - Some children are more at risk as such risk factors that predispose families, communities & societies create vulnerability to CSEC.
 - Interventions aimed at combating CSEC should reach out to children in risk groups, e.g. OVC
- Forms of CSEC
- Prostitution/Commercial Sex, e.g. child pornography, early marriage, child trafficking, child sex tourism
 - Traditional/Ritual practices, e.g. sex for food
- Underlying Causes of CSEC
- Poverty – lack of basic necessities
 - Cultural Factors
 - Lack of skills linked to poverty
 - Breakdown of social/community networks
 - Trafficking
 - Family prostitution, etc.
 - Domestic violence
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Conflict... displacement
 - Materialism/peer pressure
 - Migration
 - Experience of family occupations
 - Single parenting
- Case Studies: Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda & Kenya
- Prevention
Strategy: 1) Policy advocacy as a tool for creating an enabling environment, mainstreaming CL in policies and legislation; and 2) awareness raising and social mobilisation targeting community leaders and structures, media, etc.
 - Withdrawal
Strategy: 1) Direct action involves community mobilisation for ownership and proper identification of children
- Rehabilitation and Reintegration

SUMMARY

➤ KEY ISSUES

1. Need to focus on underlying economic causes of Sexual Exploitation of Children – Poverty contributes to increased risk of Sexual Exploitation of Children... how to break cycles of poverty, particularly among women and children, and provide protective environment for them?
2. Intersectoral collaboration - Linkage with education, health, the judiciary and other protection issues, e.g. child labour
3. Importance of community based mechanisms – raising awareness & social mobilisation, including children and the youth
4. Inadequate implementation and enforcement of policy and legal framework to prevent and respond to Sexual Exploitation of Children

5. Insufficient resources (financial, human, etc.) allocated to prevent and respond to Sexual Exploitation of Children

➤ **CHALLENGES**

1. Difficulty & complexity of Sexual Exploitation of Children, e.g. traditional/cultural aspects, e.g. early marriage
2. How to establish community-based social safety mechanisms, e.g. linkage between social protection and child protection?
3. How to establish child-sensitive reporting mechanisms at the national and community levels?
4. How to ensure political will and commitment to allocate resources for social protection/child protection mechanisms?

ACTIONS NEEDED

- Ensure increasing allocation of resources for child protection mechanisms at all levels
- Ensure political will of the Government to allocate national resources to implementation of child protection strategy and to understand and translate CRC into the concrete action in each country
- Ensure national parliaments held accountable for the relevant aspect of AU Call for Action, e.g. establishment of social protection frameworks at the national level, inclusion of Sexual Exploitation of Children into Africa Peer Review Mechanisms
- Using regional and sub-regional mechanisms to harmonise child protection policies and to share good practices and lessons learned
- Ensure that the Government considers children's issues as the national priority in their development plans; and a certain % of national budget to be earmarked for children-related activities
- Ensure free quality education for all children
- Linkage between child protection and social protection systems should be enhanced
- Ensure the Government conducts costing of children-related activities and mobilise funds for implementation of these activities.
- Enhance partnerships with the private sector for prevention of and response to Sexual Exploitation of Children

3 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Develop evidence on the impact of pilot cash transfer/social protection on reduction of the risk of sexual exploitation of children in Africa and share good practice and lessons learned.**
- 2. Promote that new and revised national social protection strategies are child and gender sensitive, address the most vulnerable children and families with adequate allocation of resources.**
- 3. Advocate and work in partnership with Governments and Parliamentarians to ensure evidence based understanding of the importance of poverty reduction and social protection strategies for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; and to address in AU Peer Review Mechanisms.**

Rapporteur : Miah Nemoto, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Mozambique

**CALL FOR ACCELERATED ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION
TOWARDS AFRICA FIT FOR CHILDREN
(2008-2012)**

Commitments of the African Union Commission to monitor progress

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Proposed 3 Key Action Points/Recommendations

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