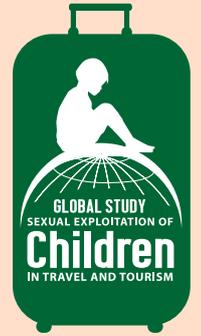


GLOBAL STUDY ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC REPORT

GHANA

2015



The research report was written by Ghana NGOs Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC).



Ghana NGOs Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) is an Affiliate of ECPAT International

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The views expressed in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the donors.

June 2015

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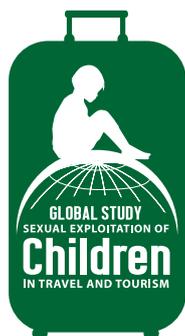
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands





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The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child

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Consulting Team

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ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children
AMA	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
ATCWAR	Advanced Trainer for Children and Women's Advocacy and Rights
CHRAJ	Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CLU	Child Labour Unit
CRC	Convention on Rights of the Child
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CST	Child Sex Tourism
DoC	Department of Children
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GES	Ghana Education Service
GNCRC	Ghana NGOs Coalition on the Rights of the Child
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
JHS	Junior High School
LI	Legislative Instrument
LRF	Life Resource Foundation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SECT	Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism
SHS	Senior High School
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
ToR	Terms of Reference

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child Sex Tourism (CST) or Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) is a growing threat to children in many countries all over the world, particularly those who receive significant numbers of tourists. ECPAT International describes it as one of the greatest tests of an increasingly connected world and an important challenge to the ever-expanding travel and tourism industries¹ Unfortunately, in many such countries including Ghana, the issue of CST is least highlighted amongst key stakeholders and consequently not prioritised as an issue to be addressed.

This study seeks to strengthen evidence-based advocacy and lobby action to improve child protection and further enhance knowledge on CST in Ghana to guide and promote targeted actions aimed at eliminating CST. The study further explores the response of policy and legal frameworks to CST and identify gaps therein. The study was conducted in locations within three regions of Ghana which have vibrant travel and tourism activities. The study selected the Takoradi (Western region), Cape Coast (Central region) and Accra (Greater Accra region), which are all capital cities in their respective regions, as well as some communities within their environs for data collection and other field work.

The study involved extensive desk reviews on CST and primary data collection via stakeholders' consultation forum, focus group discussions with parents/community members and semi-structured interviews with child protection agencies, NGOs, adults in travel and tourism sector, key informants as well as testimonies from victims and children at risk.

KEY FINDINGS:

CST occurs in tourism destinations, towns and cities. The common manifestation of CST in these cities is child prostitution. Key hotspots include beach resorts, hotels and other notable identifiable places for leisure activities in the cities. Perpetrators of CST include domestic and international tourists and migrant workers in fishing, construction, entertainment, mining and oil sectors. Males are the most perpetrators of CST. Minors, both boys and girls are involved, with girls being the victims in the majority or those at the highest risk. Boys are believed to be mostly sexually exploited by international travellers from the West (mainly mentioned are the US and Europe) and Asia (mainly mentioned are China and Korea), altogether referred to as white people² locally.

The study also found that Ghana has enacted adequate child protection laws and policies. However, the issue of CST is subsumed under sexual offences and not specifically captured in these laws and policies. In addition, there is weak enforcement of child protection laws, especially those relating to commercial sexual exploitation of children. Alleged corruption among law enforcement officers was cited as a serious setback to the effective protection of children from CST.

1. ECPAT International. Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers (2008): P.5. Accessed on 27th January 2015 at: http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_fa_eng.pdf

2. Ordinary Ghanaians refer to all light skinned color people as "abrofo" (meaning white people) and mostly do not distinguish whether they are Europeans, Americans or Asians, except the very educated ones.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Efforts must be made to empower parents/families to be able to support their children. Unemployed parents, especially women, should be supported to engage in sustainable economic activities through skills training and provision of capital/resources to work with. Related to this is the need for government to make adequate budgetary and resource allocation for the implementation of the newly approved Child and Family Welfare policy.

Awareness raising and sensitisation on CST should be intensified among key stakeholders including parents. Besides, the donor community need to prioritise CST related activities and channel resources including funding to local actors to help direct focus to combat the CST threat.

Local actors (child protection agencies or NGOs) must be supported to form or align the objectives of existing children's clubs (or peer educators clubs) in schools and communities to engage and empower them to be active in their own protection from all forms of sexual exploitation.

Social services for victims should be scaled up and improved across the country. For example, shelter to accommodate children rescued from commercial sex by DSW, DOVVSU, etc.

Existing child protection laws and policies need to be amended to make specific references to CST. There is also the need for government to adequately resource the law enforcement agencies to fully protect children from sexual exploitation by tourists and travellers.

On-going collaboration by key stakeholders also ought to be strengthened to enhance all aspects of child protection. A national secretariat for CST needs to be set up to plan strategies and logistics support to local actors to enable them combat the CST menace. Further, traditional authorities should be involved in the fight against child sex tourism since they wield a great amount of power in formulating rules and regulations and also command a high level of respect in their communities.



Ag. National Coordinator
(Ghana NGOs Coalition on the Rights of the Child)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Child Sex Tourism (CST) or Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) is one dimension of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) that is becoming a serious threat to the welfare of children in many countries. This threat is even more significant in countries which are experiencing a rapid expansion in their tourism sector.

The common manifestations³ of child sex tourism are child prostitution and pornography. Other manifestations of CST relate to child trafficking, either internally or across borders to service sex tourists. Mention can also be made of cases where nationals from one country travel to another country to marry a minor, have sexual contacts with them during their period of stay and then return to their home country without making any further contacts with the minor nor the minors family. In some other manifestations, such tourists may marry the minor, and relocate with them to the tourist's home country and coerce them into engaging in commercial sex activities for their economic gains.

Child sex tourism involves the exchange of money, wares, food, consumer electronics or some other form of consideration to a child or to a third party for sexual contact with a child. Available literature suggests that there are a variety of factors that contribute to child sex tourism including socio-economic issues (such as poverty), some cultural and gender practices, comparative wealth advantage, demand for child sex or supply of child sex by exploiters and children who desire to own fashionable consumer items like clothes, smart phones, tablet and laptop computers. Other factors include weak enforcement of child protection laws and the new technological media⁴ which has exposed a lot of children to new emerging dangers/threats associated with technological advancement (TV, radio, phones, social media, and other media outlets).

According to ECPAT International (2008), perpetrators of CST offences may be adult (both young and old) males and females, though males are most often the offenders.

Victims of child sex tourism are both boys and girls, with girls constituting the majority of victims in most cases. These children come from diverse backgrounds including children living in poverty, victims of domestic abuse or neglect, children living on the street, those working in the tourism sector, orphans and other vulnerable children who are living in tourism destination communities, cities and countries where relatively wealthier tourists travel to.

Some child sex tourists target children. However, most are situational abusers who do not usually have a sexual preference for children, but take advantage of a situation in which a child is made available to them.

The consequences of CST on child victims are severe and damaging to their future wellbeing and lives. Victims may suffer both physical consequences (wounds) and psychological distress (trauma, guilt, despair, low self-confidence, etc). The devastating effects of child sex tourism on children, families and communities demand a need for a comprehensive study to investigate the causes, extent and breath of the problem to guide national governments and decision-makers involved in child protection laws and policies.

Child sex tourism, as a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children, is an increasing threat confronting children in Ghana. However, stakeholders classify CST as only a subcategory of commercial sexual abuse of children and do not prioritise it as a special issue that requires attention for deliberate and specific actions to combat it⁵. This study helps

3. ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers (2008): P.19-22. Accessed on 27th January 2015 at http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf

4. ECPAT France, Child Sexual Exploitation: Questions & Answers: Victims. Accessed on 13 February 2015 at: <http://ecpat-france.fr/en/exploitation-sexuelle-enfants/questions-reponses/les-victimes>

5. ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers (2008): P.9. Accessed on 27th January 2015 at http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf

bring the issue of CST to the fore and re-focuses stakeholders' attention to commercial sexual abuse of children within the travel and tourism sector. It further uncovers emerging trends and complexities in child sex tourism in the study locations and country, as well as indicates strategies (recommendations) to combat CST in the country.

Structure and Layout of the Report

This report is made up of a further five (5) chapters. Chapter Two reviews definitions of some terms and

concepts relating to commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Chapter Three reviews the methodology adopted for the study, looking at issues like study design and approach, quality control measures, research ethics and limitations encountered. The country's background information is briefly presented in Chapter Four and this puts the study into context. Chapter Five presents the key findings of the study whilst Chapter Six presents the conclusion and set of recommendations by participants and respondents involved in the study.

CHAPTER 2

DEFINITIONS & CONCEPTUALISATION OF CHILD SEX TOURISM

The definitions of key concepts used for this research are set out below.

Child: A child is any person below the age of 18 years. This definition is in sync with the UNCRC, ACRWC, the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the Children's Act 1998 (Act 560) and other International Legal Instruments.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA): Child Sexual Abuse occurs when an adult or someone bigger or older than the child uses power or authority over the child to involve the child in sexual activity. Physical force is sometimes involved. Contact offences include touching and fondling, through to sexual penetration. Non-contact offences include verbal sexual harassment, indecent exposure, "peeping" and exposure to pornography.⁶ The two main components of child sexual abuse are:

- Sexual activity – actual, attempted or threatened – between a child or young person and an older, bigger or more powerful person.
- An abuse of the unequal power relationship between a child or young person and an older, bigger or more powerful person, which usually includes a betrayal of the child's trust.

While it is acknowledged that there are other definitions of child sexual abuse, the two-pronged definition outlined above was the definition used by this research.

The key points below also highlights the legal definition of some sexual offences against children in Ghana.

Defilement is defined under the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act as follows:

- natural or unnatural carnal knowledge of any child under the age of 16 years
- natural carnal knowledge is understood as vaginal intercourse between a man and a girl (under 16), or a woman and a boy (under 16)
- unnatural carnal knowledge reflects any other form of sexual abuse that involves penetration (e.g. oral sex, anal sex), whether the victim is male or female
- consent is irrelevant, as individuals under the age of 16 cannot consent

Indecent assault is defined under the Criminal Offences Act as follows:

- forcibly making sexual bodily contact with another person without their consent, if the contact does not amount to carnal knowledge

6. Save the Children, 2006. Stop CSEC: Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children in Fiji; A Situational Analysis, Save the Children, Suva, p. 9.

Sexual exploitation as defined under the 2012 revision of the Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act,

- is the use of a person for sexual activity that causes serious physical/emotional injury
- is always present in cases of prostitution or pornography, regardless of the person's age
- is punished more severely when the person is a child.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC):

Sexual abuse of a child by another person in return for remuneration, in cash or kind, paid to the child or paid to a third person or persons⁷. It includes child prostitution, child pornography, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, child sex tourism and child marriage for the purposes of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

As stated in the 1996 Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action:

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children's rights. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.

Similarly, Hughes A. (1999)⁸ also defined CSEC as *'involving practices by which a person, usually an adult, achieves sexual gratification, financial gain or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a child's sexuality by abrogating that child's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being'*. Hughes additionally asserts that CSEC involves among others trafficking, prostitution, sex tourism, mail-order-bride trade, pornography, stripping, battering, incest, rape and sexual harassment. CSEC involves sexual exploitation primarily or entirely for financial or other economic reasons. The economic exchanges involved in the CSEC may be either *monetary* or *non-monetary* (i.e., for food, shelter, drugs) in nature but, in every case, involves maximum benefits to the exploiter and an abrogation of the basic rights, dignity, autonomy, physical and mental well-being of the children involved. Children in commercial sexual exploitation are often exposed to

unhealthy environments and night work. As indicated in the definition of CSEC above, CSEC is manifested in various forms, the definitions of the forms of CSEC and related concepts are outlined below.

Child Prostitution: The use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration⁹. The term child prostitution, however, may not be something that young people subjected to commercial sexual exploitation may identify with (young people may instead identify with terms such as "sex for survival" and "sex for favours"). Many child rights advocates have shown a strong resistance to the use of the term because they perceive prostitution as a form of vocation that a child is not mentally, physically and psychically matured enough to decide to practice.

Child Pornography: Any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes for commercial/economic purpose¹⁰.

There are two broad categories of child pornography: non-sexually explicit but involving naked and seductive images of children; and, that which presents images of children engaged in sexual activity¹¹.

A child does not necessarily have to be aware of his/her exploitation for the production to be considered child pornography. Similarly, a child does not necessarily need to be the actual unwitting actor in the production, for them to be harmed by child pornography. At the community level, the existence of child pornography, "whether of real or simulated images, continues to cultivate a demand that involves sexual abuse and exploitation of children. There is a clear link between the pornography of children and actual sexual abuse".

Child pornography is found in formats such as videos and photographs; in print, magazines, books, cartoons and posters. Child pornography is often shared, traded or sold among adults. The trading of such pictures may happen in the community of a child victim or even in a child's school. The internet has expanded opportunities for trading of child pornography by providing an instant, global and reasonably secret means of distributing and sharing images and videos.

7. Based on the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action. August 1996. para 5

8. Hughes, ala. (1999). <http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/csec.htm>

9. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography - Article 2b

10. Ibid – Article 2c

11. ECPAT International. 2006. Questions and Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 3rd edn, ECPAT International, p. 7-9

Child Sex Tourism: According to ECPAT International, child sex tourism is “the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children. This definition would be expanded to include individuals who may not travel with the explicit intent to have sexual contact with children but happens to indulge in sexual acts with children during their travel. CST involves domestic as well as international travellers¹². It is a phenomenon that is commonly wrongly subsumed under the label of child sexual abuse and exploitation in some countries and therefore not isolated for focused interventions. Child sex tourism often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment”

ECPAT further explains that some child sex tourists (also referred to as preferential abusers or paedophiles) target children specifically. Most child sex tourists, are situational abusers who do not usually have a sexual preference for children, but take advantage of a situation in which children are made available to them. They may try to rationalize their actions by claiming commercial sex with a child is culturally acceptable in the place they are visiting or that money or goods exchanged benefit the child and community¹³. It is also important to emphasise that some tourists do not travel with the explicit intent of having sexual contact with children but indulge in sex with children when they have the opportunity and the environment is not deterrent for that behaviour.

Child (or Early) Marriage: Child marriage, or early marriage, involves the marriage of children and adolescents below the age of 18.¹⁴ It can be considered as a form of commercial sexual exploitation when a child is married and used for sexual purposes in exchange for goods or payment in cash or kind paid to a third party (usually the parents or family of the child). Studies have documented instances where children have been married off to complete strangers (tourists) for financial gains to parents and other third parties. Such marriages can be classified under CST.

Trafficking: In the context of children, trafficking means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child within or across borders for the purpose of exploitation. (Exploitation includes child prostitution or other forms of commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs).¹⁵ It is important to note that this report focuses on examining the situation regarding child trafficking for commercial sexual purposes. Child trafficking for other purposes such as forced domestic labour and slavery, servitude or removal of organs is not covered within the scope of this research.

Linkages between child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children: It is very important to establish the linkages and differences between child sexual abuse and the commercial sexual exploitation under which child sex tourism can be classified.

Child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children are distinct forms of child abuse, but as ECPAT notes, both involve “a manipulation of power in utilizing a child as a sexual object”. The difference, seen in commercial sexual exploitation of children, is that there is remuneration involved, so the child also becomes a commodity.

CSEC reflects a continuum of abuse that includes child sexual abuse, child sexual assault and commercial sexual exploitation. Most studies reviewed provided evidence of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation who were previously victims of sexual abuse. For example, some of the respondents interviewed who were involved in prostitution indicated that they had experienced sexual abuse by a family member while they were younger.

A Counsellor of victims of CSEC working on an anti CSEC project of an NGO disclosed that many of their clients had “experienced some form of abuse in their homes perpetrated by their male relatives”. This is further corroborated by stories of some victims and children at risk of CST. The common underlying factors which contribute to commercial sexual exploitation of children by domestic and foreign tourists in our cities or country are explored in Chapter 5.

12. ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers (2008): P.8. Accessed on 27 January 2015 at http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faqs_eng.pdf

13. Sub-group Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children, NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 2005. Semantics or Substance? Towards a shared understanding of terminology referring to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Sub-group Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children, NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. p. 18

14. ECPAT International. 2006 Questions and Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 3rd edn, ECPAT International pg 15

15. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 (not in force). Article 3

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The research was informed by a human rights based approach which acknowledges that children are ‘rights-holders’ with legitimate claims to protection from sexual exploitation and trafficking in accordance with Articles 19, 34 and 35 of the Child Rights Convention (CRC). The approach avoids a judgmental perspective which either perceives victims of CST as “bad children” or blames them for the consequences they suffer. The human rights based approach examines both the factors which prevent children from achieving these rights and also looks at the corresponding responsibilities of duty-bearers (the State, other agencies, and families) to protect children from sexual exploitation including prostitution, trafficking for sexual acts and pornography. This perspective is reflected in the consistent application of human rights principles of participation, non-discrimination, accountability and respect for children’s voices throughout the research process.¹⁶

The following methods were used: stakeholder meetings, focus group discussions, interviews with key stakeholders, and validation meetings with stakeholders.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

As per the terms of reference for the study, the ultimate objective of this research was to reduce violence against children, with a special focus on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. This goal is further reflected in the specific objectives below.

- To strengthen evidence-based advocacy and lobby action to improve child protection
- To enhance knowledge on CST in the cities (and for that matter Ghana) to guide and promote targeted actions aimed at eliminating CST.
- To explore the response of policy and legal framework to CST and identify any gaps.

The key research questions are captured in the table below.

KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS
Which children are victims of CST and what factors render them particularly vulnerable?
Who is organizing and exploiting the victims of CST?
What is the profile of the perpetrators?
What is the modus operandi of the perpetrators?
What are the social and cultural contexts in which such exploitation takes place?
What is a best practice to combat CST in Ghana? That is best practices in prevention, protection or aftercare.
What legal protection from CST has been put in place for children and what gaps remain?

Research Team

Alliance for Brighter Future was engaged by the GNCRC to undertake local research on CST in Accra, Cape Coast and Accra. The research team was made up of 2 lead researchers and 2 research assistants. The lead consultant is a child rights specialist, with extensive knowledge and experience in building child protection systems and has managed many child rights related and anti-CSEC projects for international NGOs in Ghana. The second researcher is also a data management expert with extensive experience in social research and data analysis. The two researchers were supported by two research assistants with considerable experience working in the NGO sector and good knowledge of the research sites. A common understanding of the key concepts and objectives of the research was established among all researchers to inform the research design and plan, prior to data collection.

16. See UNICEF research guidelines and also UNDP (2003), The UN Statement of Common Understanding on Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development Cooperation and Programming, available at: http://hrbportal.org/?page_id=2127

STUDY DESIGN & APPROACH

The study employed mostly qualitative means to collect data using semi-structured interview guides to explore the knowledge of respondents on the phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Its prevalence, factors affecting child vulnerability, and the characteristics of victims and perpetrators of CST were critical areas where data was collected. The legal and policy framework was also explored to determine its response to the issue of CST. In some instances where respondents were comfortable, voice recorders were used and later transcribed. Quantitative methods were not used due to time constraints, as well as the illicit nature of the subject under study. *This was indicated by a WAAF study (2003) that “the illicit nature of CSEC made it difficult to establish the exact nature and extent of the problem, as most respondents were not cooperative in providing truthful answers. It was therefore difficult establishing quantitatively the actual number of children engaged in CSEC”.*

Furthermore, a qualitative approach allows for an in-depth exploration of sensitive issues¹⁷ and the offender-victim dynamics involved.

Review of literature

A comprehensive desk-top review of secondary data was undertaken from authentic data sources on the subject by ECPAT International, the International Labour Organization (ILO), non-governmental organizations and other sources of research information, including the internet, on CSEC and CST. This undertaking provided secondary information to complement and inform the design of the primary research.

Selection of Locations for Primary Data Collection

In view of the sensitivity of the research, it was necessary to use a method of data collection that is suitable and relevant for the issue under study. The selection of the research site was informed by the presence of active tourism and commercial activities in those areas. The concentration of tourists was also considered in the selection. Hence, the following regional capitals were selected for field work.

S/N	NAME OF CITY	REGION
1	Sekondi-Takoradi	Western Region
2	Cape Coast	Central Region
3	Accra	Greater Accra

The Western region, particularly Takoradi, is a hotspot for the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adult sex work. The region experiences an influx of migrant workers, including expatriates into Takoradi and other towns due to mining and oil production. The presence of the harbour in Takoradi also contributes to brisk business and commercial activities that create the ambiance conducive for CST to thrive. For instance the heavy presence of foreign businessmen (people from outside the city), heavy duty truck terminals and movement of people to the area in search of non-existent jobs render many young people from the city jobless and vulnerable. Again, the general extension of nightlife activities leading to the increase in entertainment spots also creates the atmosphere for CST to flourish. The region also hosts attractive tourist's sites such as 'Nzulezo' (a village built on a river) contributes to the influx of both domestic and international tourists to the region. European Town in Sekondi was purposively selected based on background information received from our local contacts from Life Relief Foundation (an NGO).

The Central region, particularly Cape Coast and its environs, is also noted for heavy presence of tourism sites (for example, the Castle or Forts used by colonial masters for the Atlantic Slave Trade, Kakum National Park etc) that exposes children in the region to many domestic and international tourists. The region also hosts some of the popular cultural festival celebrations in the country (for example, 'Simpa Aboakyir' festival, Emancipation Day celebration for Africans in the diaspora who want to trace the roots to their families), attracting domestic and foreign travellers into the region. The Central regional capital, Cape Coast and its neighbourhoods like Elmina host some of the best hotels in Ghana and are very popular with both Ghanaian and international travellers visiting the region.

Accra, the country's capital city, serves as the first stop for most travellers from outside the country and is also a hub for commercial activities. It is the centre for popular national celebrations such as the

17. Yardley, L. (2000). Dilemmas in qualitative health research. *Psychology and Health*, 15, 215-228.

Independence Day. The Osu area was specifically selected for the interviews with children who are either victims or at risk of CST. FGD sessions were as well carried out in Accra. Osu is a suburb of Accra, located about 3 kilometres from the central business district (Accra Central). With a population of 44,027, and a population density of 1.83 per square kilometre, Osu is classified by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) as an indigenous, high density, low income area. Osu hosts the Christiansburg Fort that until recently was the seat of Government. Further, Osu is also known for its busy commercial activities in areas around the popular Oxford Street, which hosts restaurants and shops which provides Western and Asian meals, entertainment and night clubs. The presence of these facilities attracts foreigners to frequent Osu.

The selected cities for the research, particularly Accra, are experiencing large influxes of people, mostly women and children, migrating from rural to urban areas for socioeconomic reasons. These cities are also coastal, with vibrant fishing industries which exposes children to internal migrants and fishermen who travel between the coastal towns. Again, these cities host beach resorts which attracts internal tourists during public holidays like the Independence Day and the Easter Monday.

Sampling Method and Size

According to Kumekpor (2002), there are certain

characteristics or phenomena that are not distributed randomly or uniformly in a universe. In cases such as with CST a representative sample may not at all include a unit typical of the characteristics of the phenomena under investigation. In line with this, purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used because child commercial sex workers and CST victims are not uniformly distributed in any given locality. Key informants such as staff of NGOs that work closely with victims of commercial sex and adult sex workers were used to reach some of the target groups. Adult sex workers and child victims were informally interviewed to capture their stories and experiences. These stories were useful in providing insights into the vulnerability factors and consequences of CST. Those interviewed were encouraged to introduce their cohorts to be interviewed. Key informants were also identified during the consultative forum. This group also provided contacts of experts who could be interviewed.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Data was collected from multiple sources to enrich the information generated from the research process and also to allow for triangulation and validation of the data. The table below gives a breakdown of the number of participants or respondents involved in the primary data collection

RESPONDENT/PARTICIPANT GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS/RESPONDENTS			
	Takoradi	Cape coast	Accra	Total
Stakeholders Consultation Forum				
Child Protection Service Providers	5			5
NGOs/CSOs	11	1		12
Legal/Regulation	3			3
Education/Academic	2			2
Total				22
Key Informant Interviews				
NGO/Government Institutions	1	2	4	7

RESPONDENT/PARTICIPANT GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS/RESPONDENTS			
	Takoradi	Cape coast	Accra	Total
Child Protection Service Providers	2	3	1	6
NGOs/CSOs	4	2	1	7
Legal/Regulation	2			2
Education/Media			2	2
Travel & Tourism Operators/Employees	1	2		3
Adult Sex Workers	2		1	3
Total				23
Focus Group Discussions				
Parents/Caregivers/Community members	15		12	27
Testimonies				
Victims	3		3	6
At Risk	3		4	7
Total				13

The data collection methods employed are described below.

Consultative forum with stakeholders: A mapping of all relevant institutions and key players in the tourism and hospitality industry was done to identify the key stakeholders to be invited to the consultative forum. The objective of the forum was to engage with key stakeholders in the tourism industry and institutions with child protection mandates to provide insight into the issue of CST and further explore and share their experiences on this issue. This was an important step in the research process and enabled the researchers to generate preliminary information to guide and further shape the research.

Key informant interviews; Key informants were identified via the consultative forum and later interviewed using a semi-structured interview guide. The key informants provided important information on the background of the research sites, the socio economic activities that impact the prevalence of CSEC/CST and the mode of operation. They also aided in identifying and interviewing victims.

Face-to-face in-depth interviews: Interview guides targeting different respondents were developed to conduct face-to-face, in-depth interviews. The

questions in the guide began with general ice breaking questions about children that enabled the interviewer to establish rapport with the respondent before they engaged in detailed discussions on the research topic. Each respondent was interviewed face to face to enable the interviewer assess the mood of the respondent and be able to appraise the validity and reliability of answers given. This technique was used and it facilitated snowballing. The rapport established through the process made respondents gain trust and confidence in the researcher and as a result some of the interviewees introduced their colleagues to participate in the research.

Respondents to the semi-structured interviews included child victims, children at risk, adult commercial sex workers and officials from state institutions with mandates for child protection such as the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), Child Labour Unit (CLU) and the Department of Children (who has the mandate to implement the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of Worst forms of Child Labour of which CSEC/CST is inclusive). The Human Trafficking Secretariat, media personnel, staff of NGOs with specific interventions to address sexual

exploitation of children, and adults employed in travel and tourism were among other respondents. The national office of the Ghana Tourism Authority was served with a letter (with semi-structured questionnaire attached) requesting interviews with a representatives but follow-up to this letter did not result in having the interview as at the 13th of May 2015.

Focus group discussions: Focus Group Discussions were conducted among community members such as parents, guardians, opinion leaders and other community stakeholders in European Town (Sekondi) and Osu (Accra) to elicit needed information relating to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Thus a total of 2 FGDs were done.

QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES

The process of triangulation was used in the data collection. This is a process where different methods of collecting data are used and agreements yielded by different methods are compared. It is an important way of verifying the accuracy of information. To triangulate the data, the major conclusions were gathered from different data-collection methods and compared for areas of agreement and disagreements. Where inconsistencies were detected, evidence was sought that helped to determine the accuracy of the findings. It also assisted in suggesting possible explanations for the observed discrepancies. Again, the level of agreement between the two researchers on interpreting and linking responses to issues was given serious consideration to ensure inter-rater reliability in the study findings.

Although no formal advisory group was established for this study, the research team made a conscious effort to involve relevant government institutions and stakeholders throughout the process. The draft report was shared and validated with relevant stakeholders from government, media and non-governmental organizations in Takoradi and Cape Coast for the inputs for the finalisation of the report. Again, even though the research team did not initially involve the National Steering Committee on Child Labour which is a multi-sectorial committee established under the Ministry of Manpower and Labour Relations as advisory body on child labour issues, the draft report was shared with them for their inputs. A presentation on the draft report was done at the meeting of members of the National Steering Committee on Child Labour who also had the opportunity to give their inputs and made further recommendations for the finalisation of the

report.¹⁸ Finally, the draft report was shared with a PhD student of the University of Ghana who is undertaking in-depth research in child sexual abuse and she provided technical support to the research by reviewing the draft report and making some technical inputs. All these were done to ensure that the quality of the study satisfies minimum standards.

Data Analysis

The research team adopted an iterative and reflexive approach to the analysis of the data; this process begins as data is being collected rather than after data collection has ceased. Field notes were taken on the meaning of information gathered through the interviews and how it might relate to other issues. This process of reading through the data and interpreting them continued throughout the project. Although interview guides were prepared for the data collection process, these were adjusted whenever it appeared that additional concepts needed to be investigated or new relationships explored. All interviews were transcribed into English and documented at the end of each day or the next day to avoid loss of memory on data collected from respondents.

“Qualitative analysis transforms data into findings. No formula exists for that transformation. Guidance, yes but no recipe. Direction can and will be offered, but the final destination remains unique for each inquirer, known only when—and if—arrived at.”

- Michael Quinn Patton (2002) - p. 432

This process helped to identify important concepts, patterns and to reach a consensus on issues to be addressed by the study. Responses were grouped into new data files by question, and common themes present in the responses identified. The different edited transcripts were matched and synthesized to obtain a master document. This procedure gives a wider view of all responses given and also to obtain one document that represents all data collected on the field. Descriptions and explanations on how different concepts are related and linked were explored and documented. Data was then analysed by content and theme and a narrative analysis approach was adopted.

A few closed-ended questions were analysed using SPSS software package to generate simple frequencies, percentages or charts to help give graphical presentation of the corresponding responses obtained.

18. The members were very critical of the fact that they were not involved in the entire research process ,particularly in reviewing the methodology and also wanted the scope of field work to be expanded to include more towns/cities and regions than those covered. This was however not possible due to time and resource constraints.

RESEARCH ETHICS

Due to the sensitive nature of the research topic, ethical considerations informed the design of the methodology and research tools. Time was taken at the outset to clarify the research objectives, intended use of the data and the possibility of future interventions to address identified needs and concerns. Moreover, since the primary targets were children, there were ethical issues involved in dealing with them especially in relation to the sensitive and prohibitive nature of the study. All respondents had to give consent to be interviewed. The parents' or caregivers' consents were sought for all children less than 18 years who were interviewed. Both verbal and written consent was sought with the children in the presence of an adult (parent/caregiver). The consent procedure¹⁹ was explained to both the children and adults. A participant was only interviewed following an agreement.

The identity of all respondents has been protected throughout this report. Pseudonyms have been adopted where necessary to replace the actual names of victims whose stories have been shared in this report.

An informal interviewing approach was adopted in our interactions with children and adult sex workers to enable them freely share their stories. The interviews with children in particular were conducted in a safe environment and a friendly manner to make it easy for them to express themselves. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject under investigation, all the interviews began with general ice breaking questions that were intended to put respondents at ease and also to set the tone for further discussions on the issue. None of the child victims and adult sex workers was comfortable with audio recording of their interviews so this was not done. The lead researcher conducted the interviews while a research assistant made notes that were transcribed and discussed by both the researcher and the research assistant such that any missing information was filled in immediately.

LIMITATIONS

The research team was challenged with access to some of the target groups, particularly the victims and adult sex workers. The team could therefore not reach the targeted number of 15-20 to be interviewed as stated in the research protocol. The

respondents who agreed to be interviewed complained that they have been interviewed by many researchers yet they have not received any support hence their unwillingness to participate in this research. The research team had to give some respondents tokens up to \$20.00 to motivate respondents and also to compensate for their time loss in partaking in this research. Again, access to disaggregated data on CST from DOWSU and other state institutions was impossible. This is because data on CST has not been isolated from the broad categories of sexual offences e.g. sexual assault, defilement, rape, indecent exposure among others. Besides, the NGOs who have interventions on CSEC have mainly focused on child prostitution and child marriage without isolating CST as a category or form of CSEC in their intervention. This was a major challenge the research team had to grapple with.

It was therefore difficult to identify victims of CST from the onset to be interviewed. This category of respondents was therefore generally presented as victims of CSEC or sexual abuse. The research team was only able to isolate the real victims of CST after the interviews and this further narrowed the actual number of victims of CST that the research team had earlier intended to interview. To address this gap, the experiences of adult sex workers before they were 18 years old were captured to also determine whether they were victims of CST and how that has impacted on their current views and thoughts about the phenomenon.

Information regarding perpetrators was collected from both victims and professionals. However, no perpetrator was questioned directly and professionals did not have statistics on the profiles of prosecuted perpetrators. Consequently, the perpetrator profiles presented here were derived indirectly based on anecdotal evidence and may in part reflect attitudes towards migrant workers and tourists.

Although the main focus of this study was on child sex tourism, other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children, such as child pornography, are also an important issue and the extent to which this is linked to national and international networks remains unexplored. Due to the constraints of this study and the more hidden nature of the phenomenon, the production or consumption of child pornography was not explored in depth here.

19. Please see appendix for consent form

CHAPTER 4

COUNTRY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

POLITICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

The Republic of Ghana is a secular and unitary state and is centrally located along the coast of West Africa. Its land area is 238,533 square kilometres and shares borders with the Republic of Togo to the east, La Cote d'Ivoire to the west and Burkina Faso to the north with the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean) to the south. The governance system is made up of an Executive headed by an elected President. There is an elected Parliament and a largely independent judiciary. The Parliament or legislature is made up of majority and minority parties.

The country is divided into ten (10) administrative regions and 216 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in pursuant of a decentralization programme since 1957. A Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) is constitutionally established to oversee the observance of fundamental human rights of all persons, including children. Civil society groups and individuals participate in the governance of the country, supported by a vibrant media industry.

Ghana's population has witnessed a steady growth over the years; however, fertility profile has experienced a marked decline in the past two decades. Ghana has a population of 24,658,823 million (Ghana Statistical Service, 2010) about half of whom live in rapidly expanding urban centres. The population is youthful with nearly 45% under 18 years. This indicates a high dependency burden on both the state and the family. Agriculture is the mainstay of Ghana's economy, employing nearly 55% of the labour force and accounts for 35% of GDP whilst the service and industry sectors contribute 47% and 18% respectively.

Over 20 years of political stability through democratic governance has resulted in significant economic and social progress. Using the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as reference, efforts by government to reduce the number of people living in poverty by 2015 is on course as those living below the poverty line reduced

from 52% in 1992 to 29% in 2006. An estimated 18% of Ghanaians, most of whom reside in hard to reach rural areas live in extreme poverty conditions. In 2010 it was declared a middle-income country by the World Bank and has been listed in the world's press²⁰ among the world's fastest growing economies in recent articles on the phenomenon of 'Africa Rising'.

The progresses highlighted above are however not equitably spread throughout the Country. Most rural communities, especially those in the Northern Savannah areas, Volta, Central and Eastern are lagging behind. The persistent large regional differences in wealth and opportunities drive rural-urban migration which leaves the rural communities depleted of qualified human resources and pushes the cities in the South to the limit of their capacity to cope. This rural-urban migration also has serious implications on the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation. Consequently, there are serious challenges and violations to the realisation of children's right to survival, development, protection and participation.

In many areas there are large disparities based on gender, social status and location of residence. Overall, girls of poor families in rural areas are experiencing by far the most serious violations of their rights.

The changing nature and structure of the Ghanaian family system has over the years impacted on the wellbeing of children and youth in the country. The nuclear and extended family systems within the context of the matrilineal and the patrilineal systems have served as social safety nets for children especially for those in need of special care and protection. The relevance of the family system has been demonstrated in the way it regulates, maintains, protects and cares for its members, both children and adults. The extended family system especially has provided an efficient platform for moral training and welfare of children. Migration, urbanization and modernization have adversely affected family cohesion and working of the extended family system, thus exposing younger ones in the families to the worse forms of abuse and exploitation.

20. 'Africa's Hopeful Economies: The sun shines bright.' The Economist, December 2011; 'Africa is the world's next powerhouse.' Time Magazine, December 2012.

POLICY, LEGAL & INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Prior to the adoption of the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Ghana established the Ghana National Commission on Children in 1989, to oversee the general welfare and development of children and coordinate all essential services for children in the country. The Commission later became the Department of Children, which is currently the policy formulation and implementation wing for children under the then Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. Ghana established the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs in 2001, exclusively dedicated to the interests of this sub-sector. This ministry was further renamed the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in 2013.

The state as primary duty bearer has put in place policies and laws to ensure the realisation of children's rights. Ghana is one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and recently cabinet gave approval for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography to be laid before Parliament for ratification. The Optional Protocol criminalizes the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The Optional Protocol, seeks to reinforce the protection of the rights of the child and thus guarantee such rights as relate to sexual and economic exploitation and from doing any work that will interfere with the child's education or harmful to the health, moral or social development of child. The country is also a signatory to other international and regional conventions such as the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child among others. These conventions seek to guarantee the rights of the child and protect the child from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Consequently, Ghana embarked on a series of law reforms aimed at protecting the rights of the child and strengthening the legal and policy framework concerning children. These included the promulgation of the Children's Act 1998 (Act 560), Juvenile Justice Act 2003 (Act 653), Child Rights Regulations 2003 (LI1705), Human Trafficking Act 2005 (Act 694), Domestic Violence Act 2007 (Act 732) among others. Ghana's commitment, judging from the above

national legislative and constitutional provisions, to protecting the welfare of the child cannot then be over emphasized.

In spite of this positive legal framework, the realisation of children's rights has been undermined by weak institutional mechanisms and capacity to enforce the laws enacted, negative socio-cultural factors that contribute to child and human rights violations, and weak livelihoods which ultimately reinforces household and child poverty. Children are exposed to abuse and exploitation at the family, school and community level. The exposure of children to violence at all levels is further corroborated by the UN VAC study report (2006) which highlights violence against children within different settings: such as the family, schools, alternative care institutions and detention facilities, places where children work, and communities.

In 2010, a national child protection systems mapping and analysis was undertaken. The purpose of the mapping was to generate the evidence needed to build a common understanding of the components and the nature of the child protection system in Ghana, to highlight the strengths of existing practices and structures and to identify areas that could be enhanced. The mapping exercise revealed that the formal child protection system was not addressing the needs of many children and their families, and had not been designed to be culturally appropriate and sustainable within existing resources. One of the key recommendations of the mapping process was to embark on a process of re-conceptualizing the child protection system to make it more relevant, sustainable and 'fit' for Ghanaian context by building on the strengths of existing community structures and traditions. Since 2010, key actors in the area of Child Protection have collaborated to work towards establishing and strengthening a child protection system in the country that sets standards for addressing issues in a holistic manner.

Accordingly, the Government of Ghana, with technical and financial support from UNICEF Ghana, embarked on a process of strengthening the Child Protection system in June 2012. The process sought to ensure that the child protection system would be appropriate, effective, sustainable and 'fit' for Ghana, to prevent, protect and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of children in the different settings of society. The process resulted in the new Child and Family Welfare Policy which was recently approved

by the cabinet of Ghana. This Child and Family Welfare Policy seeks to establish a well-structured and coordinated Child and Family Welfare system that promotes the wellbeing of children, prevents abuse and protect them from harm. The overall goal of the Policy is to help formulate child and family welfare programmes and activities to more effectively prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

This Policy mainly seeks to:

1. Design child and family welfare programmes and activities to more effectively prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation;
2. Ensure effective coordination of the child and family welfare system at all levels;
3. Empower children and families to better understand abusive situations and make choices to prevent and respond to situations of risk;
4. Build capacity of institutions and service providers to ensure quality of services for children and families in urban and rural areas;
5. Reform existing laws and policies to conform to the Child and Family Welfare system; and
6. Ensure provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources required for the functioning of the Child and Family Welfare system at all levels.²¹

Furthermore, while developing the Child and Family Welfare Policy concurrently, Justice for Children Policy was also being developed to address challenges relating to the justice issues on children. The Advisory Committee for the development of Justice for children had their last meeting in March 27, 2015 to finalise the document for submission to the Minister for Gender Children and Social protection for her immediate actions.

Despite the legislation and state machinery dedicated to the protection of children, statistics from a variety of studies²² indicate that there are serious harm, violence and abuse being inflicted on children throughout the country. For example according to a study on child sexual abuse by Plan Ghana in 2010²³, 14% of children interviewed have experienced sexual

abuse. A study by UNICEF (MICS report 2010) also reports that 34% of children aged 5-14 years are engaged in child labour. Child protection challenges listed in the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), Ghana's recent past medium-term development plan, include: 30% of children not staying with parents; child marriage, child-headed families; weak enforcement of children's rights; child abuse/violence against children; child trafficking; child labour; extremely poor households with orphans and vulnerable children (OVC); child prostitution/pornography; streetism; children in conflict with the law; child slavery, voicelessness; lack of counselling facilities for children and young persons.

The above is further corroborated by a national child protection study commissioned by UNICEF in 2013 which highlights child trafficking, child labour, neglect, defilement, **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Early/forced marriages** as some of the critical protection issues confronting children in Ghana. These, according to the research, are as a result of the lack of enforcement of laws coupled with the inaccessibility of formal child protection services at the community level. This is further compounded by social-cultural attitudes and perceptions of what is appropriate among parents and community members. This extends to the observation of practices affecting children which are rooted in tradition or religion, including customs and rituals.

One emerging issue confronting children is sexual exploitation in travel and tourism (CST). Although there are no accurate statistics that indicate the scope and severity of the phenomenon, largely as a result of the clandestine nature of the problem, qualitative data suggests that the problem does indeed exist and needs urgent attention. Available literature or studies indicate the causes of these forms exploitation against children are complex. The potential causal factors include severe poverty, family dysfunction, weak enforcement of laws and expanding tourism and hospitality industry. Informed by this general context and evidence from various research reports on status of child protection and particularly child marriage in Ghana, this study was conducted to break the silence around CST, explore the knowledge of targeted respondents about the phenomenon, the vulnerability factors at play as well as the modus operandi of perpetrators and their profiles.

21. Child and Family Welfare Policy (2015)

22. See list of documents reviewed in Annex.

23. Plan Ghana, 2010, Child Sexual Abuse in Schools

CHAPTER 5

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This section of the report highlights some of the key findings from the study. It is presented in two main sections; the major factors that make children vulnerable to CST and a review of the occurrence of CST in the cities including the profiles of victims and offenders, the implementation of laws and policies, and the availability of support services.

FACTORS LEADING TO CHILDREN'S VULNERABILITY

Several factors contribute to children's vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

Socio-Economic Factors

Almost all the respondents identified poverty amongst families as contributing to children's vulnerability to CST. Children are pushed into situations (for instance, prostitution) of trying to survive on their own as a result of poverty. On average, an estimated 25% of Ghanaians are living in poverty. The corresponding rates for the Western, Central and Greater Accra regions are 20.9%, 18.8% and 5.6% respectively (GLSS6, 2014: 19, 26). Therefore, many families living in these regions, which abound in tourism destinations, live below the poverty line with children lacking the adequate financial support to meet their basic needs. Data from State Institutions with mandates for child protection indicate that most of the cases handled by them concern child neglect and maintenance – inability of parents to provide for the basic needs of their children. For example, 49 % of the close to 10,000 cases dealt with in 2009 by the child rights promotion and protection programme of DSW related to child maintenance. The DOWVSU caseload is equally dominated by child maintenance cases (67% of all children's cases in 2009)²⁴.

As a result of inadequate income, some parents send their children out into the streets to sell to supplement family incomes. Children sell after close of school, or

during weekends and public holidays. Others who are not enrolled in school sell any time of the day and during the night time. Preliminary findings from the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) in 2013 reported that 23.4 per cent of children aged 5-14 years were engaged in some form of economic activity. Those children were engaged in the services industry, mining and quarrying, apprenticeships and household help.²⁵ Children in these circumstances are in frequent contact with persons or travellers who potentially offer money or gifts in exchange for sexual favours. A girl explained how at the age of 12 years, she was sexually harassed by an elderly man.

"I walked round my community selling charcoal for my mother after school. One of the buyers did not pay me, instead asked me to come the next time for the money. When I got home and told my mother about it, she got angry and asked me to go for the money. It was around 6pm. When I got to my school on my way to collect the money, an old man approached me and asked what I was doing around the school at that time. I told him how I sold on credit and my mother has angrily asked me to go for the money. He promised to give me the money so I could go back home to give to my mother. He then held my hand and pulled me to the back of one of the classroom blocks, pulled down my underwear (panties) and had sex with me. He told me to come to his house for the money but I returned and told my mother what he has done to me. My mother and father both beat me up before sending me to DOWVSU to report the incident."
(A15-year old Girl from Sekondi-Takoradi)

There has been growth in the travel and tourism sectors²⁶ in recent years as a response to the Government's agenda to boost revenue from tourism in Ghana. This has led to considerable increase in travel and tourism operators as well as facilities and services. This drive for an expansion in the travel and tourism sector has not been accompanied by a corresponding robust CST

24. Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System, UNICEF Ghana 2011

25. Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Living Standards Survey 6, First Quarter Labour Report, Government of Ghana, Accra, 2013.

26. Country Report: Travel and Tourism in Ghana (2014). Accessed on 2nd April 2015 at: <http://www.euromonitor.com/travel-and-tourism-in-ghana/report>

prevention and general child protection awareness. With the increasing number of tourists visiting tourism destinations, the implication is that children living in these towns or cities would become exposed to tourists, some of whom may take advantage of their comparative wealth to lure them (particularly, children from poor families) into sexual exploitation. A girl explained how she got into sexual relationship with a 26-year old man when she was 15 years old as follows.

"I was given my school books list estimated to cost about GH¢45. My parents said they did not have money to buy the books, so I presented the list to this man who has been making sexual advances towards me. He took the list and bought all the books and gave me some money as well. As a result, I agreed to a sexual relationship with him. He continued to give me weekly support of GH¢20." (A16-year old Girl from Osu, Accra)

The extract above reinforces the ease with which persons with comparative wealth can sexually exploit children who lack basic financial support.

Legal/Regulatory Factors

Existing laws in Ghana generally seeks to protect the welfare of children, yet CST is not sufficiently addressed.²⁷ A representative of DOWSU further reinforced this perspective through an observation that the police classify sexual offences against children into three main categories, namely defilement (where the child involved is less than 16 years), rape (where the child is 16 years and above but did not consent to the sexual act) and solicitation of a minor for immoral purpose (where the child is 16 years and above and consented to sexual act with the adult). Thus the issue of CST is subsumed under these broad categorisation of sexual offences and not isolated for any intervention by the law enforcement agencies.

Therefore, while there is general consensus that Ghana has a very good legal framework to protect children, there is serious concern regarding the weak enforcement of these laws. A respondent from an NGO shared her experience.

"One of our projects seeks justice for children through the provision of support for victims of sexual abuse to report to DOWSU. We have encountered so many challenges with the system and the process can be very frustrating, victims

are expected to pay for the medical examination that prove the abuse to support prosecution and the cost is enough to stop victims from reporting. Secondly, victims and their families are sometimes expected to bear the cost of transportation for the arrest of the suspect. This is further compounded by the cost of transportation throughout the investigation and to court as well. It took us almost 18 months of trial before the judgement was passed on one of the cases we supported. You can imagine how many people would be able to afford the cost and time to go through such a process. The reality is that sometimes the victims give up along the way truncating the entire process. Besides, majority of the cases go unreported and some offenders go on to abuse other children with all impunity. The laws are there beautifully but it cannot be enforced to the latter because the institutions with that mandate do not have what it takes to do so effectively." (Respondent from an NGO)

The forced labour of children by families themselves is also not regulated by law. A representative from NGO sector referred "children as young as 10 years old risk their lives selling water and food items in traffic on major roads in the cities" and noted that it is unlikely that many parents/guardians of these children have been cautioned by the law enforcement agencies.

Alleged corruption among some officers of law enforcement agencies is also another likely factor that is contributing to the failure of law enforcement. Many respondents referred to the fact that perpetrators of sexual abuse against children were in a position to bribe themselves out of trouble when cases are reported to some of the law enforcement officers. After taking such bribes, offenders often are neither traced nor prosecuted. In other circumstances, victims may recant their statement as a result of poor, inappropriate practices in place. These practices include questioning the victim and the offender in the same room together and telling the perpetrator's family the identity of the victim leading to some victims to be threatened into silence. A participant at the stakeholders' consultation forum gave an example of one such unprofessional attitude as captured below.

A case in which a 14-year old girl was defiled and she reported to the police. The officer gave her a medical form to go for medical examination. The hospital asked her to pay GH¢50 before she could be examined. Unable to pay, she went

27. Participants of a stakeholder consultation, xx 2015.

back to inform the officer who in turn asked the girl to go and work for his wife at home for daily fee of GH¢2 so as to raise the required GH¢50 she needed for the medical examination. Fortunately, the girl came into contact with an NGO that offered to assist her. (A Participant at Stakeholders Forum)

“Child sex tourists travelling to Ghana are aware that weak legal and social protection enables them to have greater access to vulnerable children. An interview with a child sex tourist revealed that he exchanged “food, clothes, and other things” with children for sexual contact. In this case, the respondent in question was an American national...” (ECPAT International, 2008)

A Cross-section of Representatives of Stakeholders who attended the Consultation Forum



The above gaps in the legal or child protection systems exacerbates the situation of CST as child sex tourists are believed to be attracted to regions where weak law enforcement and poor socio-economic circumstances are present.

Breakdown of social cohesion and support from the extended family

The extended family system provided social insurance for its members in times of need and distress. This function of the family has been seriously undermined by modernisation and urbanisation. To a greater extent, the extended family can therefore no longer provide the social protection services it used to render to its members. Meanwhile state institutions are also not able to play this role effectively, a situation that makes children deprived of care by their immediate family very vulnerable.

An NGO respondent from Takoradi complained about the failure of the legal system to protect children of prisoners, which could also make such children vulnerable to CST.

“When parents or breadwinners for children fall foul of the law and are imprisoned, the legal system does not make any provision for caring for their children whilst they are in prison. The breakdown of the extended family system that could provide care for such children coupled with the stigma of the incarceration of one’s parents; the children are mostly without adequate care while their breadwinner is locked-up. The end result is that these children move into the streets to find food and other basic needs to survive, and this makes the children particularly the girls become vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.” (NGO worker, Takoradi)

Commenting on the above statement, some respondents expressed the view that it is a matter of serious public education and sensitisation to invigorate the declining extended family support to such children. They argued that despite the continuous decline of extended family support to children, when there is the death of a family member, the extended family becomes very active in organising burial and funeral rites. A respondent summed it as follows.

"When people die, we read about chief mourners (not only one but many) on burial announcements, so where are these 'chief mourners' when the person is imprisoned?" The Gov't is already over-burdened and so obviously cannot provide any proper care for such children. (NGO Worker, Cape Coast)

Inaccessible Social Services

Poor access to social services is another contributing factor to making children vulnerable to CST. While it was widely recognized that there are social services supported by institutions such as the DSW, DOWSU and CHRAJ, for the protection of children, these social services are not adequately resourced. Therefore services are generally poor quality, not inclusive of hard to reach children in rural communities, lacking in logistical capacity and social mobilization.

Respondents from the social service providers observed themselves that they are unable to work proactively and effectively to protect children as mandated by the laws of the country.

A 12-year old child was sent to a local FM radio station by a shop owner who found her sleeping at the entrance to her shop. When no family member came for the girl after announcement by the radio station, the girl was sent to the CHRAJ office. Since CHRAJ has no temporary shelter for children, the girl was brought to our shelter (run by an NGO) for temporary protection. She was immediately enrolled in school and subsequently taken into the custody of the DSW. However, we are still providing support to this girl. But for our immediate intervention (sheltering), the girl could have been back to the streets and perhaps become a victim of CST. NGO Respondent, Takoradi

Family Related Issues

Family breakdowns and separations in the absence of extended family support are also leading to greater vulnerability of children to child sex tourism. This perception is further supported in part by a mid-term evaluation report from International Needs Ghana, which states that 51% of child victims of CSEC on their project were from broken homes²⁸. When parents get divorced or separated, proper maintenance and the care of their children becomes more difficult. Often

children are raised by single mothers who are unable to adequately provide their needs. Child neglect increases a child's vulnerability to CST. Respondents observed that child neglect was also evident in stable homes or medium-high income households, as parents become more engaged to their profession or business at the cost of the child's wellbeing at home.

A few of the respondents reported that some families, particularly poor families, are quite receptive of adults who give money or gifts to their children, be they local residents, migrant workers or visitors. Some parents are said to depend on their children for money and basic supplies, while others go to the extent of borrowing money from their children. These practices send wrong signals to both the children and adults involved. Eventually, these children could potentially become victims of child sex tourism.

Cultural Practices

The celebration of cultural festivals in towns and communities was observed as contributing factor to children's vulnerability to CST. During such festivals like Aboakyire, Odwira and Homowo among others, an inflow of tourists participate in social activities organised as part of the cultural festival.

Another common practice²⁹ is allowing children, mostly girls, to provide household services to visitors or migrant workers in rural communities. Parents may allow their girls to visit male teachers or other migrant workers in their houses to perform household duties for them. This practice indirectly grants unsupervised access to the children by these adults, a situation that potentially leads to such children being sexually exploited in exchange for gifts or money. These practices reinforces the inferior social position of girls, who are expected to provide services to men.

Children, particularly girls, migrate from their villages or communities to the cities to avoid being forced to undergo some harmful rituals or practices such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and 'Trokosi' without any arranged accommodation or funds and become head porters (locally known as "kayayei")³⁰. Many studies have shown that these girls suffer sexual abuse and harassment including commercial sexual abuse. Some even turn to prostitution to supplement their income. This is further corroborated by an ECPAT study (2014) which showed that many migrants

28. Protection, rescue and rehabilitation of children from commercial sexual exploitation in and around Accra, Ghana: Mid-term Evaluation Report. International Needs Ghana

29. Reported by participants at stakeholders' consultation, February 2015

30. Interviews and FGD sessions, March 2015

and “kayayei” have no real source of shelter at night and often engage in commercial sexual activity as a secondary source of income.³¹

In communities where child marriages and betrothals are permitted, girls are at times given in marriage or betrothed to travellers who have visited or stayed in those communities for relatively short periods of time, and some of these husbands take these girls out of their communities³² to other towns, cities or countries. In these circumstances there are no guarantees that these girls will not be exploited by these husbands for commercial sex gains. It was alleged that some girls who were traditionally married to international tourists who took them out of the country have never made contact with their families, raising doubt as to whether they are still alive or not³³.

The traditional system of inheritance that fails to protect children at the time of the death of their parents (especially fathers) can also be a factor that leads to greater vulnerability to CST³⁴.

If the man dies leaving behind property, the traditional practice is for the man's family (especially with the patrilineal system of inheritance) to take over the property and his children. However, the custom does not make provision or obligation for the late father's family members to use the property for the welfare of his children. In most cases, his children are neglected by his family members or left on their own to care for themselves. Some are pushed into streets or other places where they may end up being led into commercial sexual exploitation by perpetrators of CST offences. (Key Informant Interview, Takoradi)

The Intestate Succession Law, 1985 (PNDC 111) does however make provision for children and/or spouses who suffer such losses under the traditional inheritance system to seek redress in court. However, for many rural families, either ignorance of their rights enshrined in the PNDC 111 or fear of reprisal attacks (perceived spiritual attacks) for taking the deceased person's family to court prevent them from getting their lawful belongings³⁵.

There is a misperception that mothers benefit most from the children's prosperity compared to fathers. Hence, some fathers (especially with divorced marriages) are reluctant to provide proper and adequate care for the children, leaving some mothers with unreasonable burdens.

Media

The liberalisation of media in Ghana has led to a considerable increase in the number of radio, television and telecommunications services providers. Access to social media has become very common, with increased access to the use of smart phones, tablets and personal computers. While, the expansion of the media is in general good for the development of the country, there is a risk that the exposure of children to sexual exploitation is increased³⁶.

TV channels and “Video Centres” are reported to show films with very strong sexual content during the times of the day that children can watch. Watching such tend to raise the curiosity of children in that light, thus potentially encouraging them to practice sexual acts.

Social Media refers to the latest generation of interactive online services such as blogs, discussion forums, podcasts and instant messaging. While social media can be useful to children in many ways, the risk of children being sexually exploited via the social media was reported. For example, children can be encouraged to send nude photos or videos of themselves for financial gains by perpetrators of CST. These children may later suffer psychological breakdown when they later discover that such videos are in circulation over the internet.

Negative Peer Influence

Negative peer influence pushes some children into prostitution or having relationships with adult travellers. Some children who for various circumstances have to fend for themselves are easily influenced by their peers who are already involved in commercial sex as indicated in the story of Aba³⁷ below.

31. ECPAT International (2014), “The Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Ghana.” Accessed 10 Sept. 2014 from: <http://www.ecpat.net/resources>

32. Stakeholders forum and the in-depth interviews that in some communities, February 2015

33. From the interviews conducted in Cape Coast and its surroundings, March 2015

34. Respondents of the key informant and in-depth interviews, March 2015

35. Validation meeting in Takoradi, April 2015

36. Respondents to interviews as well as participants in stakeholders' forum and FGDs, February 2015

37. Name has been changed to protect the identity of the child.

I got involved in sex work when I was 14 years old. My parents left for Lagos in Nigeria and I was staying with my grand mum who could not provide for my needs. I had to drop out of school at class 3 and started selling on the street to take care of myself. A friend I met on the street introduced me to a man who she said will help me if only I do as he says. The man took me out bought food and drinks for me and later took me to brothel and had sex with me and gave me money (GHC 20.00) The same friend said she will introduce me to more of such friends if I agree to give her part of the money I make and then she can protect me from being cheated. I agreed initially but later found out that she was cheating me so I joined a group of girls who go out at night to look for their own "customers". I started this in Cape Coast, went to Accra (Fadama) and now I am based in European town. This is how I survive. I have had sexual encounters with a lot of men including Chinese, Korean and Japanese. The white men pay better than the local men.

The desire of some children to get rich quickly and to live affluent lifestyles as their peers or other young adults makes them vulnerable to CST³⁸. Some of their peers or young adults who they see as living affluent lifestyles may be earning their income decently or may be financed by rich relatives. Oblivious of this, some young girls would do whatever including prostitution, sexual relationships with wealthy adults ("Sugar Daddy") as means to fund affluent lifestyles. This attitude makes them indulge in risky sexual behaviour such as having multiple sexual partners without any form of protection because as one child respondent from Osu puts it

"clients who don't use condoms pay more, besides, I have to use what I have (meaning her body) to get what I want (money)" – 17 year old girl (child sex worker), Osu

With such a desire to make money through whatever means, such children stand the risk of falling victims to CST as it is generally believed that perpetrators of CST pay more because of their comparatively wealth advantage.

Some boys and girls in Ghana are influenced by the perceived fame that is associated with being in a relationship with a foreign national, especially nationals from the Americas and Europe. Also, sexual relationships with these foreigners are seen as means

of securing financial support or opportunity to travel abroad (where the relationship leads to marriage). Hence, some boys and girls harbour the desire to have a Western or Asian national as partner or friend, and so quite willing to make themselves available to tourists and migrant workers from Western and Asian countries, leaving some of them to become sexually exploited by their supposed partners or friends³⁹.

THE OCCURRENCE OF CST IN THE STUDY LOCATIONS

This section presents information relating to the incidence of CST in the country. The section provides a profile of child victims and adult perpetrators of CST as well as information about the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies, and some key support services available to victims.

Familiarity with the term Child Sex Tourism (CST)

Less than 50% of respondents to key informant and in-depth interviews were familiar with the term CST prior to consultations by the research team. They were aware of commercial sexual exploitation of children by adults who travel to tourism destinations, towns and cities but such exploitations are not differentiated from the general phenomenon of CSEC. For respondents who demonstrated awareness of CST prior to visit by the research team, most of them associated CST with international paedophiles from Western countries who travel to Ghana as tourists.

Upon clarification and examples by the research team, all respondents became very clear with the CST phenomenon and subsequently articulated their views on CST without any confusion.

This finding clearly demonstrates the low level of awareness of CST even among stakeholders in the travel and tour industry as well as professionals in the child protection sector and also demonstrates the wrong perception that CST is perpetrated by international tourists only. This has further implications for the prioritisation of CST as an issue that requires attention. Besides, the ignorance and silence around the issue can make Ghana to potentially miss out on opportunities to design targeted interventions to prevent and respond appropriately to CST.

38. Participants in the FGD session in Osu (Accra), March 2015

39. Key informant interviews and stakeholders' consultation forum, dates

Prevalence of CST in the Cities

Almost all of the respondents said that child sex tourism is an issue in our tourism destinations, towns and cities. In particular, the incident of CST is very common in each of the locations chosen for field work. This is because these locations abound in tourism sites and businesses or establishments that attract migrants (both adults and children) from within and outside the borders of the country.

On the magnitude or rate at which CST occurs in the cities or tourism destinations, all categories of respondents rated it between medium and high, implying cases of CST are common eye sights in diverse hotspots in towns and cities. Although the manifestation of CST was evident, this research could not quantitatively establish the numbers of children or adults involved in CST in the study locations or country.

On the question of if respondents' thought CST was an issue in their cities and if so what they believe is the magnitude or rate of occurrence, a few responses are presented below.

"It is an issue which ranks high in terms of occurrence" – NGO respondent, Takoradi

"Yes, I rate its prevalence as high" – Restaurant operator, Cape Coast

"I will rate its occurrence low, compared to other forms of child abuse" – NGO respondent, Winneba

"Yes, it is an issue in Ghana. A lot of children are trafficked for sexual exploitation" – Respondent, Law enforcement Unit

"Yes, it happens, I rate it high in terms of prevalence" – Hotel employee, Elmina

Moreover, participants at the stakeholders' forum indicated that despite the visibility and the known locations of CST, it was not necessarily a topic of public discussion that would disclose the frequency of CST cases. Rather, they were of the view that it is indirectly

visible via the pregnancy of very young girls, the ownership of new material goods, the high numbers of school drop-out, the high numbers of child migrants in certain areas and the high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases.

On whether respondents believe that CST is an issue in the country, the following are a few of the typical responses obtained.

"... For me, I don't believe that the numbers of children affected by an issue should be high before it is acknowledged as a problem that requires attention. Even if it affects only a handful of children, I still consider it as an issue to be addressed. It is better to nip a problem in the bud before it grows to be too complicated to deal with." – Respondent, Centre for Abused Children (DSW), Accra

"Yes, it is an issue because there has been cases of some foreign nationals who come into the country to exploit girls e.g. truck drivers from Ivory coast sexually exploiting girls at Yamoranza, tourists exploiting girls at the beaches in La, Osu, etc." – Respondent, Human Trafficking Secretariat, Accra

"Yes, it is an issue in areas with high concentration of tourists and foreigners, for example, Cape Coast, Osu, etc." – Media Practitioner

"It is a very, very big issue ..." – Respondent from ATCWAR, Takoradi

"CST is an issue in Ghana because of the number of children that are involved across the country. This prevents children from receiving quality education and exposes them to health risks." – Guidance & Counselling Officer, GES Basic Education Unit, Accra

"Yes, it is happening in most of the big cities and tourist sites." – Respondent, Child Labour Unit, Accra

The table below gives a breakdown of responses to whether CST occur in our tourism destinations.

RESPONDENT GROUP	CST DOES OCCUR IN THIS TOWN/CITY	TOTAL NO. OF RESPONDENTS
Child Protection Service	6	6
Adult/Operator in Travel & Tourism	5	5
NGO	7	7
Law/Regulation Agency	6	6
Adult Sex Worker	2	2
Key Informant	4	4
Stakeholders' Forum	22	22
FGD (Sekondi)	15	15
FGD (Osu)	12	12
Total	79	79

Manifestation of CST

All respondents as well as participants at FGD sessions and stakeholders' consultation forum mentioned child prostitution as the most common form of CST in tourism destinations, towns and cities. Locally, terms such as "sex for survival" and "sex for favours" may be used (not exclusively though) to describe child prostitution. Other manifestations of CST said to be in the minimum level are child marriage and child pornography.

The table below presents the views of respondents to key informant and in-depth interviews in respect of the forms of CST. Each respondent was to select one or more of the commonly known forms of CST (that is, prostitution, pornography and child marriage). It shows a total of 44 selections by the 30 respondents, of which approximately 68% of the responses were for child prostitution. The table also shows that all 30 respondents picked child prostitution, making it the most manifestation of CST in our tourism destinations, towns or cities.

Multiple responses to different Manifestations of CST

MANIFESTATIONS OF CST	RESPONSES		PERCENT OF CASES
	N	PERCENT	
Child Prostitution	30	68.2%	100.0%
Child Pornography	8	18.2%	26.7%
Child Marriage	6	13.6%	20.0%
Total	44	100.0%	

Profile of Victims of CST

• Categories of Victims

Different categories of children are involved in CST in these cities. The majority of respondents in key informant and in-depth interviews highlighted the vulnerability of rural-urban child migrants, who struggle to find work or to make enough money to survive. Many of these children soon realize that the only way that they can cover their costs is to work on the streets and in other places where they may eventually become victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Story of a Victim, Sekondi-Takoradi

The victim was aged 16 years, had dropped out of school and living with the grandmother in a community called Aboadze near Sekondi. She was brought to the twin city (Sekondi-Takoradi) by a family friend to stay with her. *“I went back to the village and returned later to the city on my own to live with a friend in European Town.”*

According to the victim, she got involved in commercial sex trade as a result of financial need. She goes to specific areas or streets of European Town to solicit for commercial sex. Her clients include both Ghanaian and foreign nationals. The Ghanaian males include fishermen, students and travellers. The foreign customers are mostly Asian fishers. Once they have agreed on a fee, the men either go with her to her rented room to have sex or some of them would take her to a place of their choice such as hotel or some other place.

Asked if she has suffered any consequence as a result of her involvement in commercial sex trade, she replied as *“I have not had any STD because I insist on the use of condoms. Sometimes, I get threatened by some of the men whom after sleeping with me would not want to pay the agreed fee. There is also the risk of being drugged by some guys so as to have their ways to do whatever they like with you.”*

A key informant from an NGO with child protection interventions in some of the coastal towns such as Ada in the South-East of Ghana and community members who took part in the FGD session in European Town, revealed that there are girls who are brought from their home towns by women contracted as cooks for fishermen who travel along the coastal towns during bumper fishing seasons. Before setting off, these girls

are supposed to be “help-hands” for these women who are not necessarily wives of the fishers but hired as cooks receiving very low wages. The girls are not children of these women though some may be relatives. Once they come to the fishing towns or communities, because the women who brought them do not earn much to be able to meet their needs including money for the children themselves or their respective families on return, most of girls end up being lured and sexually exploited by the fishermen so they could earn some money before going back home or enable them start life in a town or city of their choice.

The next category of children identified by majority of respondents or participants as CST victims are those who are born and brought-up in tourism destinations, commercial towns and cities. Children listed include those neglected by parents, abused in their homes, without proper parental supervision, children from broken homes, children of prisoners, children of single parents and orphans. Most of these children lack adequate support for their basic needs and some end up in the streets where they are lured by pimps or perpetrators of CST or forced into prostitution to survive. Also included are children who come from middle-high class families but due to negative peer influence, desire to live affluent lifestyle or the fame of being associated with a western foreign national, become involved in commercial sexually exploited by tourists or migrant workers.

Story of a Child (Girl) at Risk of CST, Osu in Accra

She is now aged 16 years and lives with boyfriend (26 years old man from Ada who works as “Okada” - rider of motor bikes used as commercial transport). She just dropped out of school at JHS level. Her parents are from Osu, Accra.

Her relationship with this man was as a result of lack of parental support. According to her, she was presented with her school books bill of GH¢45. As her parents could not buy the books for her, she approached this man who has been making sexual advances towards her and shown him the list of books. He took the list and bought the books for her. Subsequently, she agreed sexual relationship with him. She said he took care of her school needs and gave her weekly maintenance of GH¢20.

“He bought me a mobile phone so he could contact me. He would wait for me at a nearby

park and then take me to his house to have sex with me (his divorced wife lives somewhere else)."

The victim said that towards the end of last year, her parents were evicted from their rented home and her parents became separated. She was living with her father but after a little misunderstanding between them, her father threw her out so she went to live with her friend's mother. Unfortunately, when her father got to know that she was staying with this woman, he came and verbally abused the woman for taking her in. This resulted in her being sent out of her friend's house into the streets. As a result, she moved in with her sexual partner. She said she at times cook for the man and also washes his clothes. The relationship is about 7 months old.

A key informant working in the NGO sector in the Central region mentioned other CST victims as children who live in communities near tertiary institutions, particularly the universities and polytechnics. Her views were corroborated by some participants at the validation of draft report who cited instances of communities near the University of Cape Coast and Wa Polytechnic where some vulnerable girls are seriously sexually exploited by some of the university students. A participant shared his experience of colleagues who were involved in such sexual exploitation during his years of study in the university. It became evident that some of the students in our tertiary institutions use money and gifts to trap some girls in communities around their institutions. Most of these students would give false room numbers or halls of residence so when issues such as pregnancy comes up, the families are not able to track them while some of them might have completed their studies and gone back to their home towns or cities. The key informant who lives within the Ola Estates near the University of Cape Coast gave examples where some vulnerable girls have given birth to 4 or more children each from a different past or present university student who cannot be traced.

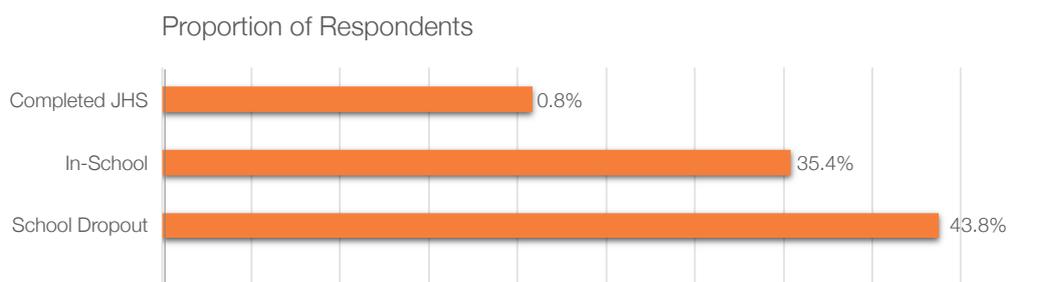
Finally, another key informant identified victims of CST to include children from other countries (mostly Asian countries) who are recruited by restaurants owned by these foreign nationals. According to the respondent, such restaurants are in reality operating as brothels and the girls involved are actually being sexually exploited for commercial gains under the disguise of working as attendants in such restaurants. An extract from transcription of interview with an NGO representative states *"... some Asian nationals (mainly Chinese, Koreans, Indians, etc) who recruit children from their home countries to establish brothels. There is one such brothel near Tadisco area here in Takoradi."* (Respondent from NGO in Takoradi)

In relation to the above claim, a respondent from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service said the Unit has investigated some of such claims and found out that though the employees involved are small in stature, they are actually 18 years or above.

• **Education Status**

In respect of their education status, most respondents agreed that both school dropouts and in-school children are involved in CST in these cities. In-school children are believed to use money received to fund their school expenses whilst other victims support their immediate family members with money and materials they receive through their involvement in commercial sex. The majority of respondents were of the view that school dropouts are the most involved in CST. Figure 1 below gives a graphical view of how these respondents described the education status of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation in towns and cities involved in the study. In all, 48 responses were obtained on education status of victims, of which approximately 44% of responses indicate that victims of CST are school dropouts. Similarly, the majority of participants at the stakeholders' forum expressed the view that most victims of CST are school dropouts.

Figure 1 – Description of the Education Status of Victims of CST (N = Total # of responses = 48)



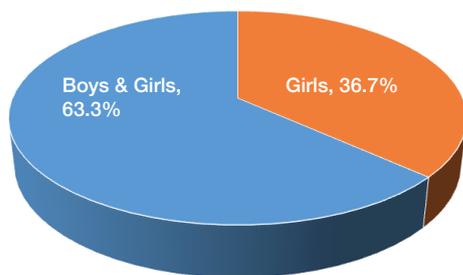
(Note: the above figure present responses obtained from the question of whether respondents thought children involved in CST are school dropouts, in-school or completed school).

- **Sex of Victims**

As regards gender, majority of the respondents hold the view that both boys and girls are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Data from stakeholders consultation forum, in-depth interviews and FGD session in Osu (Accra) reveal that boys are mainly exploited by migrants from Western countries particularly Europe and USA as well as Asian nationals (mostly Chinese) for money and perceived fame of being closely associated with foreign nationals. By comparison, majority of respondents said girls constitute the higher proportion of CST victims. Figure 2 below presents responses obtained on the sex of children involved in commercial sex in travel and tourism. Of the 30 respondents, 19 (approximately 63.3%) said both boys and girls are victims of CST.

Figure 2 – Responses Received on Sex of Victims of CST (Total # of respondents = 30)

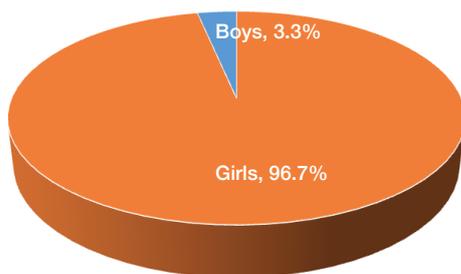
Proportion of Respondents



Approximately 97% of respondents believe that girls are the most victims of CST. The picture is presented in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3 – Responses Received on Most Victims of CST (Total # of respondents = 30)

Proportion of Respondents



The above views are corroborated by views expressed by participants at the stakeholders’ consultation forum as well as both FGD sessions with parents or community members.

The story of Kofi below demonstrates how boys can also become victims of CST and also how foreign migrant workers uses their relative wealth and power to sexually exploit children under the pretense of helping them.

Story of a Victim (Boy), Accra

Kofi, who is now 20 years old, lost his father (the breadwinner of the family) when he was in primary school class 6 (then 14years). Coming from a large family of 8 siblings, it was difficult for his mum to take care of them. Consequently, most of his siblings had no option than to live with people as house helps. He dropped out of school at primary six and enrolled as an apprentice in auto mechanics through which he acquired some driving skills. Deep down his heart, Kofi had always wished he could go back to school. His desire for education made him to approach one of his distant relatives (a soldier) for help.

He was brought from his village in the Volta Region to stay with his uncle in Accra to start his schooling again. After his Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), his uncle sacked him from his house because he realized he would not be enrolled into the army with BECE certificate, as he had originally promised. Besides, he had no money to send Kofi to senior high school after completing JHS. Kofi was very disappointed at the turn of events, moved to stay with a classmate and started doing menial jobs to support himself.

“I was introduced to a Chinese man who owns a construction company, to work with him. In no time, he started sexually harassing me any time we were alone. He touched and played with my penis whenever we were alone in the car and sometimes at his house. He advanced from playing with my penis and wanted to have sex with me but I could not stand this and had to run away. I was afraid to report the incident to my colleagues at work or anyone because the man had guns in his car and at home. I later faked sickness and stopped working with him.”

- **Minimum Age of Victims**

Responses obtained on the minimum age of children involved in CST indicate victims could be as young as 9 years and possibly less than 9 years. For instance, a respondent from the Police Service said a group of Ghanaian girls rescued in Nigeria from commercial sexual exploitation included a child trafficked at the age of 7 years. Participants at stakeholders’ forum in Takoradi gave min age of 13 years while the FGD session in European Town in Sekondi recorded a min age of 14 years. For the FGD session in Osu, the min age agreed on is 13 years.

The table below gives estimated minimum ages of victims as given by respondents to key informant and in-depth interviews.

Minimum Age of CST Victims (in-depth interviews)

MIN AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
9	2	6.7
10	4	13.3
11	6	20.0
12	8	26.7
13	4	13.3
14	4	13.3
15	1	3.3
16	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0

- **How Children Get Involved in CST**

The views of participants at stakeholders’ forum and FGD sessions were sought on how children become involved in CST. Among the typical responses obtained are that some children are trapped into CST by pimps and adult exploiters (such as owners of restaurants, madams of female apprentices and adult sex workers who act as mentors), other children get involved on their own for financial reasons and others are influenced by their peers who are involved in CST. The adult exploiters are referred to as middle-persons in this report. Respondents to key informant and in-depth interviews were similarly questioned. This was a multiple response question for which interviewers solicited for more than one answer and at times gave one or two examples to make the question clearer to respondents. The responses obtained were grouped as presented in the table below. These responses

corroborate the views expressed above.

The following are the responses obtained from two of the respondents.

“Some are coerced into it by adult exploiters, others get involved on their own due to the desire to make money. For example, young students, boys and girls being coerced to donate their sperms or ovaries respectively to make money to pay for their educational needs” – Respondent from the Police Service

“Through pimps and Peer influence” – Hotel employee

Multiple Responses to How Children get involved in CST

HOW CHILDREN GET INVOLVED	RESPONSES	
	Number	Percent
On their own for financial reasons	16	25.8%
Victims coerced by Pimps/ Exploiters	18	29.0%
Offenders prey on victims with gifts	17	27.4%
Peer Influence	11	17.7%
Total	62	100.0%

A victim’s response to how she got involved in commercial sexual exploitation says

“I got involved on my own, being motivated by financial need. I go to spots where commercial sex workers operate to look for customers.” – A 16-year old Girl in Sekondi.

- **What Children Get in Exchange for Sexual Contact with Offenders**

Most of the respondents said money is the main benefit that victims and/or middle-persons receive from adult perpetrators of CST. It was also recorded that some nationals from the Americas and Europe who regularly travel to the country exploit children under the mask of sponsoring their education (paying fees, other basic school needs and food, etc). Key informant interviews and FGD session at Osu revealed that in rare cases some regular travellers from Europe and the Americas have rented or purchased apartments for children in

suburbs like La, Nugua and Ashaiman. Other items given in exchange for sexual contact include clothes, mobile phones, tablet/laptop computers and other consumer items.

Again, the majority of responses indicated that some victims get the direct benefit mostly but there are other victims for which the pimps or middle-persons benefit the more. Responses also indicate that in some cases the victim's parents/guardians also benefit from the child's involvement in commercial sexual exploitation by travellers.

- **Consequences of Children's Involvement in CST**

Data from stakeholders' consultation forum, FGD sessions and in-depth interviews show consensus among the categories of respondents on the serious nature of the consequences of children getting involved in CST. The common consequences listed are teenage pregnancy (some leading to unsafe abortion and child neglect by teenage mothers), STIs/STDs, school drop outs, drug addiction, trauma (physical, psychological or emotional), feelings of guilt and shame. A few of the responses are captured below.

"Since the beginning of the year (2015), I have not attended my vocational training because my madam discusses my lifestyle with her customers and I feel ashamed when I hear them talk about me." (A Girl at Risk of CST, Osu, Accra)

"The main consequences of children getting involved in commercial sex are teenage pregnancies and contracting sexually transmitted disease. These in turn bring additional burdens to their parents or guardians." (FGD Session for Parents/Community Members in European Town, Sekondi)

"... The boys who are sodomised also get anal incontinence and drip" (Respondent from Human Trafficking Secretariat, Accra)

"Consequences include ..., stigmatization within the community, discrimination by even family members who see these victims as merely prostitutes." (Stakeholders Consultation Forum, Takoradi)

Profile of Perpetrators of CST

As described by ECPAT International (2008), CST perpetrators are both domestic and foreign travellers. They are not only short-term tourists, some are long-term visitors and those who make frequent visits to a destination. The long-term visitors or tourists make friends and establish relationships in local communities, a situation which helps them get away with their illegal activities with the least suspicion. With the increase in the number of countries where foreign nationals are encouraged to buy property and stay longer in Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere, the opportunity for child sex tourists to integrate into local communities is becoming widespread.

Responses obtained from various sources clearly confirm that both Ghanaians and nationals from other countries in Asia, Europe and the Americas are involved in CST in cities. These include tourists, migrant workers, entertainers and businessmen.

- **Ghanaians Perpetrating CST Offences**

In respect of domestic tourists, respondents identified those who travel to tourism destinations and towns or cities during weekends and public holidays such as Independence Day and Easter Monday as well as those who attend celebration of cultural festivals. While the majority of these tourists go for entertainment, sightseeing and other attractions that goes with traditional durbars and practices during cultural festivities, there are a few who in the course of their stay either engage the services of middle-persons to connect them to children or on their own lure children with money or gifts and sexually exploit them.

Though the study did not include cities in the Eastern region of Ghana, a few of the respondents to key informant and in-depth interviews made reference to Easter celebrations in the Kwahu areas of the Eastern region. Easter festivities in these areas are heavily attended by natives and visitors living in other parts of the country. The respondents claimed that numerous CST offences are committed by these natives and visitors, which is partly evidenced by the number of teenage pregnancies that occur in the Kwahu areas after every Easter celebration. This is further confirmed by online news report by 233 Live, "a very worrying trend has emerged at the Kwahu Easter festivities that is gradually tainting the image of the 'once' honourable festive occasion; promiscuity"⁴⁰ Again, the Kwahu traditional council in 2012, expressed a similar worry that the immorality by the youth during the occasion

40. <https://233livenews.wordpress.com/2013/03/27/kwahu-easter-festival-for-tourism-or-prostitution>, Last accessed on 26th May 2015

cast a slur on the cultural heritage as Ghanaians and are therefore determined to take actions to combat this worry.⁴¹

With regard to Ghanaian migrant workers, two of the key informants from the NGO sector in Takoradi and Cape Coast as well as the community members who attended the FGD session in Sekondi identified fishermen who travel along the coastal fishing communities (from Ada in the East down to Half-Asini in the West of the country). All of these groups of fishers come with women who are accompanied by children, most of whom are sexually exploited by the fishermen for money or other gifts. Participants at the stakeholders' forum and in interviews listed other migrant workers involved in CST such as employees of construction, mining and oil-related companies. These individuals exploit child prostitutes or engage the services of middle-persons to reach their victims or engage the children in household services through which they sexually exploit them. Two of the 30 (approximately 7%) respondents to in-depth interviews mentioned film-makers who travel to places taking children with them or recruit local children who are given promises of being given roles to play in the movies. In the end, most of the children who are promised or given roles in the movies are sexually exploited. A restaurant operator gave an example of this as follows.

"A man came to the restaurant accompanied by some local girls, so I asked him what he was doing with these girls. He said he was shooting a movie with them but I noticed he was not comfortable with me questioning him and some of the girls, so he did not come back to the restaurant again. I inquired about him some days later and I was told the chief and his elders got to know about him, summoned him to the palace and ordered him to leave the community."
(A Bar/Restaurant Operator)

As mentioned earlier, a key informant in Cape Coast and the participants at the report validation meeting in Takoradi said male students in tertiary institutions, especially universities and polytechnics, sexually exploit girls living in the communities in which their institutions are located.

- **Foreign Nationals Perpetrating CST Offences**

Majority of respondents⁴² hold the view that tourists (mostly males) from the Americas, Europe and Asia (particularly China and Korea) are involved in child sex tourism in cities and towns in the country. A few of the

key informants as well as participants at the FGD session in Osu claimed that Western nationals are particularly involved in the sodomy of boys. In addition, two of the key informants in Accra and one in Cape Coast made reference to long distance truck drivers from other West African countries (including Burkina Faso, Cote D'voire and Mali) who are involved in commercial sexual exploitation of children in towns and cities in the country. Yamoransa Junction near Cape Coast and Adoagyiri near Nsawam was mentioned as examples of popular destinations for some of these truck drivers.

Almost all of the respondents, including FGD and stakeholders' forum participants, suggested that some migrant workers from outside the country are involved in CST. These migrant workers include Asian fishers from China and Korea whose vessels dock near the shores of coastal towns like Sekondi. Respondents claimed there are middle-persons who at times arrange girls and carry them in canoes into the fishing vessels. Others are said to come to the communities to have sexual encounters with sex workers, including children. Informal interviews with children involved in prostitution in European Town in Sekondi also confirmed that their clients include Chinese and Korean fishers.

A few of the respondents mentioned Chinese workers in construction and small scale mining as well as other foreign migrant workers in mining companies as being involved in the exploitation of children, enticing them with money and other consumer goods. Another group of foreign migrants workers who were identified as involved in child sex tourism include volunteers (including teachers and Aid workers), working mostly in rural areas.

- **Gender of CST Perpetrators**

The majority of respondents said both men and women are involved in CST. However, they maintain that the majority of offenders are males. Both older and young males are believed to be involved. These views are also shared by participants at FGD sessions and the stakeholders' consultation forum.

The profile of paedophiles and patrons of prostitution or sex purveyors has changed. Far from the old male paedophiles of yesterday, the present day sex tourists exploiting the vulnerable are mostly young. These days, women are also exploiting young people for sex in certain destinations. (Excerpt from an online article - <https://233livenews.wordpress.com/2013/07/02/ghana-not-a-sex-tourism-destination>)

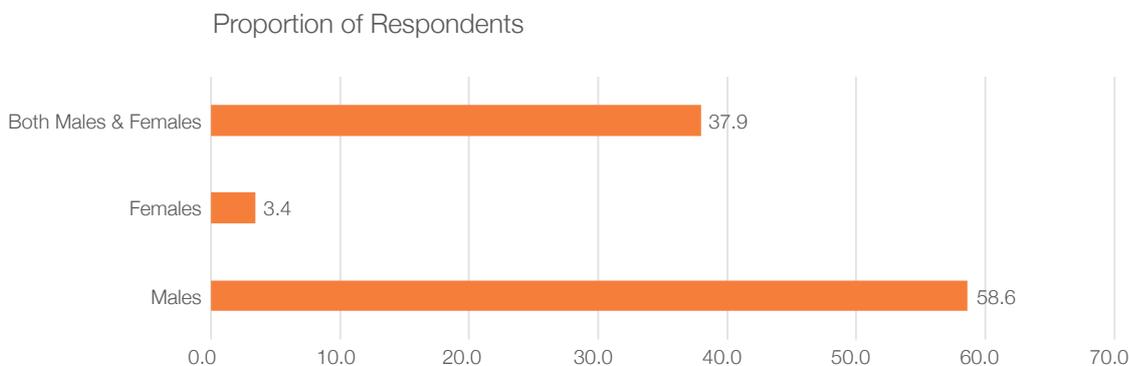
41. Gyasi Kate, 2013: Study of Kwaku Easter Festival as a Tourism Hall Mark event.

42. Data from key informant and in-depth interviews, the stakeholders' consultation forum and FGD session in Osu

Interviews and discussions revealed that Ghanaian women who are involved in CST mainly act as middle-persons by coercing girls to provide sex to clients and collect money rather than them engaging in sexual acts with children themselves. Figure 4 below gives graphical representation of respondents' views on the

involvement of males and females in CST. It shows the majority of respondents believe that males are most often the perpetrators of CST.

Figure 4 – Responses to Sex of Adults Involved in CST (Total of 29 out of 30 in-depth Interviews)



- **Modus Operandi of Perpetrators**

The study inquired into how offenders come into contact with the children they exploit. The majority view is that weak enforcement of our child protection laws coupled with the natural hospitality of Ghanaians makes it easy for both local and foreign travellers to gain access to their victims either directly or through middle-persons. In some cases, snowballing contact takes place where regular tourists who have established contact with children use these children to recruit other children for first time tourists.

- **Issues that Motivate Perpetrators of CST**

The study inquired about the motivations of offenders to come to tourism destinations, towns or cities to exploit children. As mentioned earlier, over half of respondents and participants in various discussions believe that the main issue is the weak enforcement of our child protection laws, complemented by alleged corruption among law enforcement officers. There are rare prosecutions of CST/CSEC offences in the country. Most child defilement cases involve close relatives or neighbours and young children (below 12 years of age). In addition, interviews and discussions revealed that perpetrators are motivated

by their comparative wealth advantage over the families of the children while others hide behind the anonymity enjoyed by visitors to these destinations. In the case of Western nationals, the view is that some take advantage of the absence of “the normal rules” in their home countries to engage in sexual acts with children as reported in a study conducted with sex tourists.⁴³ According to that study, sex tourists felt that “the normal rules” in their home did not apply when they travelled to a foreign place. They often devalued the places they travelled to and made excuses such as “children grow up more quickly there” or sexual encounters with children are tolerated here.

Parents and community members who attended the FGD session in Sekondi expressed the view that some adult perpetrators are motivated by their love of the fresh-looking, hairless bodies of children. A victim in Sekondi had a similar view; when asked about what motivates the offenders, she said “*they know there are places here where they can get girls to sleep with. They enjoy having sex with different girls.*” Other respondents thought the offenders find it cheaper to buy sex from children and a few believe it is just their way of life.

43. Wuttke, G. (2000). Vom Sextourismus zur Kinderpornographie. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte, B 17-18, 13–20.



A section of Parents/Community Members who attended the FGD session in European Town, Sekondi

Hotspots for Sexual Contact with Children

Various hotspots were identified by respondents. The most common among them are beach resorts where tourists, both local and foreign, visit during weekends, public holidays and special occasions such as cultural festivals or Easter Mondays. In Sekondi-Takoradi, areas around popular beaches were mentioned. In Cape Coast and Accra respondents listed areas around beach resorts.

Besides beaches and beach resorts, respondents listed a number of specific locations and streets in cities and towns where prostitution is common sight and perpetrators of CST seek children at these specific places either directly or through middle-persons.

A few of the respondents made reference to hotels as places where CST also occurs. In most cases, perpetrators go to the hotels with their would-be victims, others have the children brought to them by middle-persons and in rare cases some hotel staff were said to act as middle-persons for customers seeking sexual encounters with children. Some of the restaurants that employ children are believed to be using them as attractions for their customers, where attendants are persuaded to wear short and revealing dresses and management turn blind eyes to customers

who make sexual advances towards the attendants. Thus, some customers can arrange to meet with these children after work. A key informant said operators of some restaurants, especially Asian restaurants, recruit children from their home countries who are used as regular restaurant workers as well as sex workers.

Again, a few of the respondents said private hostels and houses are rented out to children involved in prostitution. Some adult perpetrators visit these children to take them out or even have sexual encounter with them in these rented accommodations. In Takoradi, respondents made reference to a hostel marked “**Hostel for Under 18s**” which in the view of some respondents makes it easy for perpetrators of CST to visit and lure children living there.

Weak Enforcement of Laws and Policies

Most of the respondents talked about the weak enforcement of child protection laws in the country, in particular those relating to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Weak enforcement of child protection laws and policies are attributed largely to lack of resources (both human and logistics) for the agencies to effectively discharge their duties. This is further compounded by the purported corruption among some of the law enforcement officers. For

instance, a respondent from DOWVSU said that the Unit has only one clinical psychologist for the whole of the Central region. He also referred to lack of transport to visit hotspots and make arrest if necessary, lack of temporary accommodation or shelter if the Unit even decides to remove child prostitutes from some of the hotspots.

It was also clear that majority of employers in the travel and tourism sector in the cities visited for data collection either do not have official policies that seek to protect children from sexual exploitation in their business operations or do not display their child protection policies in places that are clearly visible to their customers or clients, perhaps for fear of losing revenue. Receptions of hotels, beach resorts or restaurants usually have their permit from the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) displayed but no materials on protection of children from sexual exploitation in their business operations are on display. Thus, there is no 'visual' campaign against child sex tourism in most hotels, beach resorts, restaurants and other entertainment centres. A few operators interviewed however said they do make their child protection policies known to the customers verbally such as children less than 18 years not being accepted as customers and adult customers who are accompanied by children are made to complete forms as evidence that they came in with children. Besides, a few respondents testified that they have seen official policy on child protection displayed in some of the top hotels like the Novotel in Accra.

There is also the absence of any standardised code of conduct binding the operators in travel and tourism by which the protection of children from CST can be enforced. However, some respondents from the hospitality sector said the Ghana Tourism Authority demands that operators make their official policies of child protection known to employees and customers and also warn against withdrawing the operational licences of any operators found to be involved in inappropriate behaviours such as condoning child prostitution in their premises. The GTA was criticised by a few of the respondents for not doing enough to prevent or stop some operators in the travel and tourism sector from indulging or condoning commercial sexual exploitation of children within their business operations. An operator of one of the biggest restaurants in Winneba in the Central region said the Authority has not made routine inspection visit to the restaurant for some years now, implying that such failures to monitor operators would enable some of

them to get away with some negative practices such as turning blind eyes to CST in their business operations. In response to such criticism, a GTA respondent gave an example that the Authority has only three officers in charge of the Western region with over 300 licensed operators, so they find it difficult to schedule sufficient time to undertake thorough inspections. He said their inspections generally cover facilities and services and do not visit rooms occupied by customers to have the opportunity of spotting issue like CST. He said they do undertake observational trips to beaches, hotels, restaurants, etc but they have limited time to be able to stay long enough to see malpractices such as CST, not forgetting attempts by some operators to conceal any such malpractices when the officers are present.

An officer from CHRAJ said that at the moment Ghana does not have any proper structures to deal with known foreign child sex offenders coming into the country. However, a respondent from the Police said Interpol Ghana is usually alerted by the coming of known child sex offenders into the country and they in turn relay the alerts to local security officers at tourism destinations to monitor such person. Unfortunately, no serious monitoring is usually done.

Key Support Services

Participants at the stakeholders' forum and other respondents identified key support services available to victims or children at risk of CST to include

- counselling
- social protection
- social integration
- skills training
- advocacy
- referral

However, stakeholders and other respondents all agreed that some of these support services are available in theory but in practice some are virtually non-existent or woefully inadequate. Social protection, integration and skills training are among the inadequate support services offered to children. Key support services providers such as the DSW, DOC, CHRAJ and DOWVSU lack resources and logistics to better protect children from prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Facilities such as temporary accommodation or shelters, medical care and transport services are some of the challenges these service providers are confronted with.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The study revealed that child sex tourism indeed occurs in Ghana. However, there is very low knowledge of the CST phenomenon among respondents and key stakeholders in the child protection services. Thus, CST is not considered separately from other forms of CSEC and therefore there is no deliberate interventions to address it. The most common form of CST revealed by the study is child prostitution (locally referred to as sex for survival or sex for favours). Child marriage to tourists or migrants is said to be minimal while child pornography is believed to be a rare manifestation of CST in the research locations.

Several factors in Ghana lead to children becoming vulnerable to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Among them are:

- socio-economic factors such as poverty among families
- increase in the number of tourism related businesses
- breakdown in family cohesion and child neglect
- legal and regulation factors such as weak enforcement of child protection laws, purported corruption among law enforcement officers
- peer influence and affluent lifestyles desired by some children
- cultural practices such as allowing girls to provide household services to migrant workers or tourists, permitting child marriages and betrothals
- inadequate social services provided for the protection of children
- Traditional broadcasting media and the new emerging social media that lead to greater risks for children becoming exploited

A number of different categories of children were identified to be involved in child sex tourism. These included children:

- living and being brought up in tourism destinations and commercial towns or cities
- who migrate from their rural homes to towns and cities in search of employment or economic activities
- contracted as cooks by fishermen who move from one fishing community to another during the fishing seasons
- living in communities where tertiary institutions particularly universities and polytechnics are located
- recruited from other countries as restaurant attendants

Victims of CST include both boys and girls, though the majority of respondents believe girls constitute the most victims. Most of these children come from poor families who are unable to provide their basic needs, a situation that renders them vulnerable to CST. With respect to the age-of victims, children as young as 9 years are believed to be affected by CST. Children get engaged in CST on their own, motivated by offers of money or gifts, although though there are few pimps and middle-persons who coerce some of the victims. Irrespective of whether victims are coerced or get involved on their own, there is widespread recognition of the long-term damaging consequences for the victims of CST. These consequences include teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortion, STIs and trauma.

Adults perpetrating CST offences include both Ghanaians and tourists and migrant workers from mainly Western countries (US, Europe) and Asia (mainly Chinese and Koreans). Male adults are said to be more involved than females in child sex tourism, although women are said to frequently act as middle persons.

While many of the offenders make direct approaches to their victims, a few of them engage the services of pimps and middle-persons. Respondents believe offenders mainly give money and consumer items in exchange for sexual contact with children. However, a few foreign tourists are said to act as sponsors of their victims' education.

Hotspots for child sex tourism revealed by the study include areas around popular beach resorts, other specific places or streets in towns or cities where prostitution takes place and to a lesser extent some hotels, guest houses and private accommodations.

The threat of child sex tourism to the children of Ghana is real and urgent action is needed to combat this threat. Without accelerated action by multiple actors including the government, the tourism industry and communities, CST will continue to increase as the contextual risk factors for CST are indeed prevalent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are a consolidation of various recommendations made by participants at the stakeholders' forum, respondents to key informant and in-depth interviews and members of the research team.

Support to families to protect their children

- Social service providers need to be resourced to enable them assist families to better care for their children. Enacted policies, such as the Child and Family Welfare Policy, also need to be allocated the necessary resources to ensure implementation,
- Efforts must be made to economically empower parents to be able to support their children. Unemployed parents, especially women, should be supported to engage in sustainable economic activities through skills training and the provision of capital resources to help them adequately provide for their children.

Prevention

- There should be more awareness creation, education and sensitization on CST among stakeholders and the general public. This should include messages such as: children who are involved in commercial sexual exploitation are not at fault or bad, but rather those boys and girls who should be protected by adults. The public should also be educated to make them aware of the immediate or first points of call where issues of child protection arise.

Parents need to be educated on parenting skills and the need to be responsible for the welfare and protection of their children. They should be sensitised about children's need for parental support and supervision and on the fact that the family offers the best protection for children.

- Revenue from tourism received from regions with a concentration of tourism sites and tourism-related activities should be allocated to service providers (such as DSW, DOWSU, CHRAJ, etc) in those regions to enable them to effectively protect children from any negative consequences of the associated influx of tourists to these areas.
- The international donor community needs to be made aware of CST and make resources or logistics available to local actors to help combat CST effectively.
- Priority should be placed on the establishment of children's clubs, peer educators' clubs, etc in schools, churches/mosques and communities to engage boys and girls and empower them to be active in their own protection from sexual exploitation.

Recovery and Reintegration

- Social services for victims should be scaled up and improved across the country. For example, shelter to accommodate children rescued from commercial sex by DSW, DOWSU, etc

- Child protection service providers need to sensitise well-meaning citizens, including churches/mosques to support children who are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation through sponsorship or foster parenting to help take them out of the streets.
- Formation of a professional association of social workers to bring together persons involved in the provision of social services within the formal and informal sectors. Further, there is the need to help design or propose proper training programmes for social workers to ensure uniformity, efficiency and better services to children and families.

Protection/legal and Policy Frameworks

- Amend existing child protection laws to target CST issues. Stiffer punishment should be given to perpetrators of CST offences to warn or serve as deterrent to both domestic and foreign tourists.
- Enforcement of child protection laws and policies should be strengthened and law enforcement officers involved in corruption, bribery or unprofessional attitudes towards children should be severely sanctioned to serve as a deterrent to others. The Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition need to direct its focus to numerous corruption allegations against the Police so as to bring pressure to bear on the Police Council to act to help root out corruption among service personnel
- The National Media Commission needs to work to ensure that the media, particularly the national media, prioritize the welfare of children and children related issues over money by taking off adverts that are not child-friendly such as those alcohols and condoms and other sexual related

adverts which are not presented in a very decent way, especially during times of the day when children are around to watch TV broadcasts.

- Given that Ghana has ratified international conventions such as CRC and its Optional Protocols, the government need to fulfil its commitment through effective implementation of child rights and protection issues enshrined in these documents or conventions.

Coordination and Cooperation

- On-going collaboration among stakeholders should be strengthened to achieve effective coordination in the way child protection services are provided in order to better protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation. The M-Friend⁴⁴ (Most-at-Risk Friend) concept should be adopted by stakeholders to help deliver prompt services to victims and children at risk.
- There is the need to lobby DOWSU and similar institutions to disaggregate data on child sexual abuse to give better picture to cases of CSEC/CST instead of their normal general classification into defilement and rape cases only.
- A Secretariat or Committee on CSEC/CST should be set up at the national level (and possibly replicated at regional and district levels) to formulate a national plan of action to fight commercial sexual exploitation of children including CST.
- Traditional authorities must be involved to help review the practice of exposing children to visitors without adequate monitoring and also to plan for the protection of children from CST during celebration of cultural festivals.

44. M-Friend is a network of personnel in key service provider or stakeholder institutions, who have been trained or sensitised on child-friendly issues and need to work to ensure that cases involving children are not overly delayed. For instance, if there is a need to refer case to another service provider institution, you can inform the M-Friend partner there so that even if he/she is not in charge or the boss, he/she can still push for the case to be dealt with as soon as possible

ANNEX I

Ethical Guidelines for Researching with Children at risk or affected by Commercial Sexual Exploitation and/or Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism

Introduction

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (CST) is a challenging phenomenon to research due to the vulnerable and difficult circumstances in which affected children often find themselves. A CST research should not view children as just subjects of research, but should consult with them in a meaningful and safe way. Actively involving children in the research not only ensures their right to be heard and actively participate, but it will produce better quality data as the children share insights into their lives.

The Research Team needs to commit to a robust child protection framework throughout the study which is built on the following guiding principles:

Do no harm

Assess the risk to the child or his/her peers if they participate in the research. Do not undertake any interview that will make a child's situation worse in the short or long term. Before starting field work, identify options that exist for helping or supporting children that are experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation and be prepared to respond appropriately during interviews should children become distressed when talking about their experiences (see sections below). Children can often assist in identifying risks to themselves which is why informed consent by the child is so essential. Helpful questions to ask are:

- “Do you have any concerns about being involved in this research project/interview?”
- “Do you think talking to me could create any problems for you?”
- “Do you feel that this is a good time and place for us to talk?”

Informed consent

Before starting the primary research component, it is important to first seek the support of the broader community (e.g. local leaders) and institutions which may be caring or supporting the children. However, children themselves must be allowed to give valid and informed consent to be involved in the research or to opt out. This should be an on-going process throughout the research (for example, a child should be able to stop the interview or their participation in the research project at any time if they so wish).

Information should obviously be given to a child in such a way that he/she can understand it. It is usually easier if the initial request for an interview comes from someone the child trusts (e.g. a service organisation such as an NGO or a trusted adult). A child-friendly information sheet can be prepared which either the child reads, or which is read to the child. The information can be provided as a checklist with each point ticked off as it is covered, and the child initialling or marking the form in some way at the end. It is helpful to include the following information:

- A clear statement that describes the subject and purpose of the interview and how the child's responses will be used. This statement should be discussed with the child allowing time for questions or clarifications.
- Explain the child's right to refuse to take part in the process (without affecting any other aspect of his/her life), and to refuse to answer some questions if he/she chooses or to withdraw from the project at any time.
- Discuss the potential for risks and explain how information will be kept confidential.

- As confidentiality does not override the duty to protect children in situations of serious concern, the researcher may wish to warn children of this at the start of the interview. This may be repeated during the interview if it is felt that the child is heading towards disclosure (see further information below).
- Explain how long the interview will take and ask again if they agree to be interviewed and whether it is a good time and place to talk.

There are pros and cons about getting children to sign consent forms and where literacy is limited, signing can be tokenistic. Verbal consent can be sufficient, provided that the child is clearly competent and sufficiently mature, to signify that the child has been adequately informed of the risks and benefits of the research project and that the consent is truly being given voluntarily.

Preparing referral information

Unless CST victims are already receiving care and assistance from a relevant agency, they are unlikely to have access to information that can benefit their safety and welfare. The researcher should be prepared to provide this information as an interview is a good opportunity to inform the children of appropriate and legitimate legal, health, shelter and other key services if needed. Resources/support agencies that may be useful to CST victims include local organisations specialising in providing services to vulnerable groups of children, migrant networks/associations, free health services, shelter and outreach services, hotlines/helplines, country embassies, religious groups/centres or community support organisations. It may be helpful to have this information written down on small cards that the child can be given after the interview (be mindful of situations where children may be in danger if they are in exploitative contexts and are found in possession of the card).

Ensuring confidentiality

Protecting the confidentiality of the child respondent is essential to ensure his/her safety and the quality of the information provided. Where it is necessary to collect personal details such as names, hometown, true nationality, age, etc., it is best if this information is recorded separately from the interview notes. Codes/numbers are then used to link up data when analysing. Inform the child of the precautions that are being taken to protect his/her identity.

Contents of the interviews should only be discussed with those co-workers bound by the same confidentiality agreement and data kept in a secure and private place. Personal information should be sufficiently altered to avoid identification when published in the final research report (especially where case studies are presented).

As discussed above, if the child reveals a situation where he/she is experiencing or is at risk of serious harm, the researcher must discuss the situation clearly with the child and urge him/her to seek adult help (using the referral information). Where the child does not wish to tell anyone, the researcher may still need to take action so it is important to talk carefully with the child at the start of the interview and before taking any action.

Conducting the interview in a child-friendly manner

Before the interview begins:

- Always treat children with respect. Explain in detail what you are doing, and why you want to talk to them. Explain what you will use the material for, and be sure that they are able to make a genuine choice about whether to participate.
- Be honest about your purpose, and don't raise expectations (e.g. money, direct assistance).
- Find a suitable place that is quiet and where the child feels comfortable and relaxed. Let them choose it.
- Ensure that adults who may intimidate or influence the child are out of the way. Give children a choice on how they are interviewed (e.g. alone or with a friend, the best time and place, preferred gender of interview(er), etc.).

- It can help to interview a small group of two to five children so that they get support and ideas from each other. Be sure to think about how to identify who is saying what. It may be best to work with boys and girls separately.
- Try to create a relaxed environment. Put them at ease and take time to build up trust before asking them the questions.

The interview itself

- Firstly, ask the easy questions, such as their name, age, etc. Keep using their name when addressing them. If they do not want to use their name do not pressure them.
- Do not ask questions which may put a child at risk or expose them to humiliation.
- Let them set the pace and tell their story in their own time.
- Be careful to avoid using labels, clichés, and stereotypes; be empathetic and non-judgemental.
- Ask open questions. Avoid too many closed questions, such as ‘do you?’ which call for a yes or no answer.
- You may have to ask questions in several different ways before you get the information you need. It is worth gently persisting, talking around a subject, and even challenging children to think about the questions you are asking.
- Include questions about ideas that children have that could make things better in light of their context. This serves to highlight children’s rights and abilities to make recommendations and form opinions.
- Be aware if the child is uncomfortable, and don’t push them on sensitive issues. Do not ask questions that are clearly likely to cause emotional distress or traumatise the child. If a child starts to become upset during the interview, comfort and reassure the child of his/her strengths, offer a break, change the subject or terminate the interview.
- Remember that unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are away from their home and family and they may not be sure if and when they will ever see them again. Be sensitive about questions around these issues as they can be upsetting.

After the interview

- Thank them for their time and for talking to you.
- Ask them if they have any questions for you.
- Explain again what the information will be used for.
- Summarise the interview and ask if they want anything taken out of the interview.
- Reaffirm that the child still gives consent. Permission should not be coerced.
- Provide your/the local organisation contact details.

ANNEX II

Children's Consent Form⁴⁵ (Informed consent form for child interviewees)

My name is _____; Age: _____; Gender: _____

There is a visitor/researcher from ECPAT/GNCRC who wants to talk with me, I	Want Do not want	to talk with them.
They will ask me about my life and my ideas, I	Want Do not want	to tell them anything about myself.
They will spend up to 40-60 minutes talking with me. If it is too long for me, I might ask to stop. I	Want Do not want	to be able to take a break when I want or to stop the interview completely.
They will record my conversation on paper and/or on a audio recorder, I	Agree Do not agree	to have myself, my voice, my opinions in a report.
Nobody else will know my real name. I	Want Do not want	a false/made-up name to be used if I'm referred to in the report.
They will also talk with my parents/guardian, teachers and friends, I	Want Do not want	them to.
They said they already asked permission from my parents/guardian/care giver to talk with me, I	Agree Do not agree	with my parent(s)/guardian decision.
They promise to let me know the outcomes and conclusion of their research, I	Want Do not want	to have further information when the study is finished.
I feel comfortable with being part of this interview. I	Have Do not have	more questions at this stage of the process.

This is my signature: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

45. Original version by Save the Children UK (modified by ECPAT International)

GNCRC – Research on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism

Child Consent Form¹ (Informed consent form for child interviewees)

My name is Age: 16 yrs; Gender: F

There is a visitor/researcher from ECPAT/GNCRC who wants to talk with me, I	Want <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not want	to talk with them.
They will ask me about my life and my ideas, I	Want <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not want	to tell them anything about myself.
They will spend up to 40-60 minutes talking with me. If it is too long for me, I might ask to stop. I	Want <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not want	to be able to take a break when I want or to stop the interview completely.
They will record my conversation on paper and/or on a audio recorder, I	Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not agree	to have myself, my voice, my opinions in a report.
Nobody else will know my real name. I	Want <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not want	a false/made-up name to be used if I'm referred to in the report.
They will also talk with my parents/guardian, teachers and friends, I	Want <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not want	them to.
They said they already asked permission from my parents/guardian/care giver to talk with me, I	Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not agree	with my parent(s)/guardian decision.
They promise to let me know the outcomes and conclusion of their research, I	Want <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not want	to have further information when the study is finished.
I feel comfortable with being part of this interview. I	Have <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not have	more questions at this stage of the process.

This is my signature: 

Date: 12th March, 2015

Place: OSU

¹ Original version by Save the Children UK (modified by ECPAT International)

ANNEX III

Reliable Information in Research Checklist⁴⁶

BASIC INDICATORS
Full details of the process of commissioning/instigating the research, responsibilities of organisations/ individuals involved, with contact details
List of aims, objectives and outcomes that matches methods and conclusions
A full review of existing literature and statistics, critically examining their reliability, integrated with research questions, research design, analysis and conclusions
Ethical strategy incorporated in research design, addressing issues of confidentiality, informed consent and trauma prevention; together with evidence that this strategy has been used consistently in data collection
Children's experiences and opinions are sought using appropriate methods, collected and analysed systematically and compared to data collected with adults
Definitions fully discussed, explained and consistent throughout report
METHODS INDICATORS
Full description of research methods, tools attached
A variety of methods used and data triangulated
Methods developed into research tools targeting specific samples, taking age, gender, education, language, religion, ethnicity and culture into consideration
Researchers involved in research design, supervised during data collection and provide feedback during analysis
Data collectors systematically matched with sample population
DATA INDICATORS
Details of places, times, sample size, sampling method(s), characteristics of sample populations, together with context information and control group
Detailed description of obstacles encountered
Data triangulated with research questions and literature review
Conclusions refer back to research questions and examine each in the light of data collected
Research design can be used elsewhere for comparative purposes

46. Taken from UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional office, Reliable Information Data Base

ANNEX IV

Stakeholder Consultation Forum – List of Agencies

Group One

Representatives of

- Ghana Hotels Association (GHA)
- Ghana Education Service (GES)
- Egyam Orphanage (NGO)
- Best of Mankind (NGO)
- Life Relief Foundation (NGO)

Group Two

Representatives of

- Department of Social Welfare (DSW)
- Department for Children (DOC)
- Christian Council, Ghana
- National Youth Authority (NYA)
- Best of Mankind (NGO)
- LRF (NGO)

Group Three

Representatives of

- Police (Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit)
- Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA)
- Ripples International (NGO)
- Foundation Builders (NGO)

ANNEX V

List of Agencies Interviewed for the Study

Government Stakeholders

- Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA)
- Human Trafficking Secretariat

Law Enforcement Agencies

- DOVVSU
- Child Labour Unit
- Anti-human Trafficking Unit

NGOs/UN Agencies/Academics

- ATCWAR
- Challenging Heights
- Progressive Excellence Youth Organization
- GES

Private Sector

- Media Practitioner/Child Participation Expert
- Hotel Employees
- Hotel Operators
- Restaurant/Bar Operators

Child Protection Service Providers

- DSW
- DOC
- CHRAJ

Adult Sex Workers

Child Victims of CST

Children at Risk of CST

Parents/Guardians/Community Members (Focus Group Discussions)

ANNEX VI

Interview Guide – Adults

GHANA NGOs COALITION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (GNCRC)

Research on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel & Tourism in Western, Central and Greater Accra Regions

Greetings

I am *(name)* from *(place of residence)*. I have been sent by **GNCRC** to collect data for a **Research on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism**. Could you please, allow me to ask you some questions on this subject?

Please, note that any information you share with me will be used only for the purpose of this assignment and shall be treated confidential.

Thank you.

General Questions for All Respondents

Breaking the ice Questions (Please skip if necessary)

1	How do you feel generally about the situation of children in Ghana today?	
2	What are some of the critical issues of concern to you about children?	
3	Have you considered the issue of sexual exploitation of children?	
4	Do you mind if we devote a short time to talk about this issue?	

Section A – Awareness and Occurrence of Child Sex Tourism (CST)

A1	Can you briefly explain the issue of CST or sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism? <i>Interviewer to explain further to make issue clear to respondent if required</i>	
A2	Do you think it is an issue in here or other towns and cities? If so, what is the magnitude (level of prevalence) of CST here or in other towns/cities?	
A3	How is CST manifested or in what forms does CST occur?	

A4	In your view, which form or manifestation of CST is most dominant here or in other cities/towns? <i>Please give examples</i>	
A5	Which areas/hotspots here or in other cities/towns do CST occur, and which is the most common among them?	
A6	Do you think there is organised CST by group of individuals or entities using sports or social events or similar activities? <i>Please give examples</i>	

Section B – Profile of Victims or Children at Risk

B1	What is the age group of children involved in CST?	
B2	What are the education status of victims or children at risk?	
B3	Are the children involved locals or migrants from other towns or cities? If migrants, what do you think attract these children to move from their home towns/cities to come here?	
B4	Where do these children live here or in towns/cities where they are exploited?	
B5	What are the push factors for children involvement in CST?	
B6	Are some of these children working? If so, what types of work do they do or in which sectors are they employed?	
B7	Which sex of children are normally at risk of CST (Boys or Girls)? Which sex of children are the most victims of CST and why is it the case?	
B8	How do these children get involved in CST?	
B9	Which persons benefit from the child's involvement in commercial sex?	
B10	In your opinion, what are the consequences of children's involvement in CST?	

Section C - Profile of Offenders

C1	Which nationals are involved in CST here or other towns/cities? Which nationals constitute the higher proportion of offenders?	
C2	Which category (status in town/city) of persons perpetrate CST offences here or other towns/cities?	
C3	Are both men and women involved, and if so, which constitute the higher proportion?	
C4	How do the offenders come into contact with the children? Discuss with regards to foreign nationals and Ghanaians	
C5	In your view, what motivates perpetrators of CST to come here or go to other towns and cities to have sexual contact with children?	
C6	What do the CST offenders give to the children/middlemen in return for sexual contact with the children?	

Section D – Factors that make children vulnerable to CST

D1	Which economic issues relating to this area, other towns/cities or the country as whole contribute to children's vulnerability to CST?	
D2	What are the gaps or weaknesses in our legal/regulatory frameworks that lead to ineffective protection of children from CST or ineffective prosecution of child sex tourists?	
D3	Are there any issues with access to social services in this country that contribute to vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism?	

D4	In what ways do cultural practices in this area or other parts of the country expose children to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism?	
D5	What are some of the actions or inactions of families (family related issues) that leave the children at the mercies of pimps, exploiters and CST offenders?	
D6	In your view, what individual related issues make children susceptible to CST?	
D7	What roles do various media platforms play that inadvertently or otherwise expose children to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism?	

Section E – Refer to attached Questions specific to Agencies/Respondents (see below)

Section F – Recommendations *Please give your suggestions on ways to better protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, with regards to:*

F1	Coordination and cooperation among stakeholders	
F2	Prevention Mechanisms	
F3	Protection/legal and policy frameworks	
F4	Family support	
F5	Recovery and reintegration/support services	
F6	Child and youth participation	

Questions Specific to various Agencies/Respondents

Section E – NGOs working in the area of CSEC/Child Protection

E1	<p>What is the name of your organization?</p> <p>How long has the NGO been working in the area of CST/CSEC/Child Protection?</p>	
E2	<p>What are some of the CST/CSEC awareness creation programmes that you have for children at risk, community members and businesses operating along the travel and tourism supply chain?</p>	
E3	<p>Do you have any training programmes aimed at building the capacities of participants to spot and report persons they suspect of being involved in CST/CSEC? <i>Please give examples of content and participants in recent years</i></p>	
E4	<p>Is the NGO involved in rescue, reunification or rehabilitation of children who are at risk or victims of CST/CSEC including children trafficked for sexual exploitation? <i>If so, please give statistics on cases in recent years (a copy of report or document may be submitted).</i></p>	
E5	<p>What specific supports do you give to children who are at risk or victims of CST/CSEC?</p>	
E6	<p>How do you facilitate the reporting of cases of sexual exploitation of children by victims, community members or employees in travel and tourism sector?</p> <p>Which state agencies or other entities are you collaborating with in getting suspected cases properly handled in respect of victims and perpetrators? <i>Please give examples of any recent cases</i></p>	
E7	<p>Are you aware of any country or international code of conduct that operators in travel and tourism can adopt to help protect children from CST? If so, please mention the code(s) of conduct</p> <p>How have you persuaded operators in travel and tourism in here or other towns/cities to implement the code(s) into their operations? <i>Please give examples</i></p>	

Section E – Adults employed in Travel and Tourism

E1	<p>Does your company or employer have official policy on protection of children from sexual exploitation in your business operations? If so, how does the employer ensure that all employees abide by the official child protection policy?</p>	
E2	<p>How does your company provide information on its official policy on child protection to your clients or customers?</p>	
E3	<p>Are you aware of any country or international code of conduct that operators in travel and tourism can (or are required to) adopt to help protect children from CST? If so, can you mention them and some of their key requirements?</p>	
E4	<p>Has does your company comply with any of the code(s) of conduct mentioned in E3 above?</p>	
E5	<p>Have you received any training or attended workshop on CST and how to spot offenders, facilitators (middlemen) and child victims? Please give details of any of the training/workshop – where it took place, who organised the training, content of training, etc.</p>	
E6	<p>Does your company collaborate on CST with any of the state agencies or NGOs who have the mandate to protect children from sexual exploitation? If so, what is the nature of this collaboration?</p>	
E7	<p>What success story, if any, do you have on fighting sexual exploitation of children together with any of the agencies mentioned in E6 above?</p>	

Section E – Law Enforcement Agencies (DOWSU, CHRAJ, Immigration Service)

E1	What is the legal definition of a child in the context of the laws of our country?	
E2	Which of the laws or legislations of Ghana provide for the protection of children from commercial sexual exploitation? Are there any provisions specific to CST? <i>Please mention as many as you are aware of</i>	
E3	Do you have examples of cases and prosecutions relating to CST offences in Ghana? What is the maximum punishment allowed by our laws? <i>Please are you able to provide statistics of cases and prosecutions in separate document?</i>	
E4	Do you have collaboration with security agencies in tourist sending countries who can provide information on known child sex offenders travelling to Ghana as tourists or migrant workers? <i>Please provide examples and nature of collaboration</i>	
E5	In what ways do you help children guard themselves against online sexual exploitation? <i>Give examples of awareness campaigns or similar activities.</i>	
E6	Are foreign nationals coming to Ghana to work with children required to submit police clearance certificates from their home countries to confirm their status regarding child sex offences? Does the Police/Immigration service undertake confirmations of these clearance certificates with the issuing authorities?	
E7	Do you have or facilitate any training for community members in tourism destinations and stakeholders along the travel and tourism supply chain on how to identify and respond to victims and perpetrators of CST offences? How do you facilitate the reporting of suspected CST cases by the general public or workers in travel and tourism sector? <i>Please give examples</i>	
E8	What specific support services do you give to victims or children at risk of CST?	

Section E – Law Enforcement Agencies (Anti-Human Trafficking Unit)

E1	What is the legal definition of a child in Ghana?	
E2	What is trafficking of children in the context of laws and legislations of Ghana?	
E3	Do you believe that trafficking of Ghanaian children for sexual exploitation within or outside Ghana takes place in Ghana? If so, what is the frequency of occurrence? How will you compare the proportion of children trafficked for sexual exploitation within and outside the borders of Ghana?	
E4	Are there any known (or do you believe there are) cases of children from other countries who are trafficked for sexual exploitation in Ghana? <i>Please give examples</i>	
E5	Do we have specific legal provisions for the protection of children from trafficking for sexual exploitation? Any provisions specific to CST? <i>Please mention some of these legal provisions</i>	
E6	Has the country been successful in prosecuting persons involved in trafficking of children for sexual exploitation within or outside the borders of Ghana? If not, what are the causes? <i>Please give examples in either case.</i> Any specific cases of CST? What is the maximum sentence that can be imposed on persons convicted of child trafficking for sexual exploitation?	
E7	Is the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit involved in rescue, reunification or rehabilitation of children trafficked for sexual exploitation both within and outside the country. <i>Do you have any statistics of cases in recent years (a separate document may be supplied)</i>	
E8	In which ways is the Unit working to prevent or stop the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation? <i>Please give examples to support your claim</i>	

Section E – Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA)

E1	<p>Do we have any country or international code of conduct that operators in travel and tourism in Ghana can or should adopt to help protect children from CST? If so, can you mention them and some of their key requirements?</p>	
E2	<p>How does GTA monitor operators' implementation of the code(s) of conduct referred to in E1 above or provision of information on official child protection policy to clients/customers?</p>	
E3	<p>Which awareness campaign on CST do you have in tourist destinations or towns/cities in the country that seeks to provide information to tourists, migrant workers and service providers along the travel and tourism chain as well as the general public? How successful are these campaigns in preventing CST in our tourist destinations, towns or cities?</p>	
E4	<p>Which punitive actions does the GTA have against travel and tourism operators who are found to indulge or permit sexual exploitation of children in their business operations? <i>Please give some examples if any.</i></p>	
E5	<p>Are you aware of (or have you undertaken) any recent research to highlight on the extent and new trends in CST in the country. If so, when was it done and what are some of the keys findings on the extent of CST in our tourism destinations/towns?</p>	
E6	<p>Do you have or facilitate any training programmes or workshops for stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry on CST to equip them with knowledge on how to spot children at risk, victims and perpetrators of CST offences? Please provide some examples</p>	

E7	Do you collaborate with other state agencies and NGOs in Ghana working for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism? <i>Please mention some of these organizations and the nature of cooperation that exist.</i>	
E8	Are you in collaboration or cooperation with other Tourism Authorities within the West Africa region so as to prevent perpetrators from travelling from one country to another to commit CST offences? What is the nature of collaboration?	

Section E – Social Service Providers (DSW, DOC, Local Gov't Officials)

E1	Have you had any referrals or cases of victims or children at risk of CST offences? If so, on average how many victims or children at risk of CST do you get per year, and from which institutions?	
E2	What support services do you give to victims or children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation? How do you involve the parents/guardians of these children in preventing them from the cycle of commercial sexual exploitation?	
E3	Do you have collaboration with any NGOs who can offer support services such as shelter or financial support to victims or children at risk of sexual exploitation? If so, give examples, if not, why?	
E4	In what ways can you assist responsible families to foster children who are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation? Do you have any examples?	

Section E – FGD Session with Parents/Guardians/Community Members

E1	Do child marriages to persons who are not natives of the community occur? If so, are there instances where the husbands live with the children for a while then leave for their home towns/countries without further contact with the children? Are there instances where the husbands took the girls to their home towns/countries without the girls ever coming back to visit their parents/families?	
E2	How does the community deal with homeless children or child who have signs of neglect or abuse in their homes to make sure they do not become victims of sexual exploitation?	
E3	What are some of the measures that can be taken by the community, operators in travel and tourism and the state to protect and prevent children from being victims of CST?	

Section E – Sharing of Experience (Adult Sex Worker)

E1	Do you have any past personal experience of CST or that of a CST victim? If so, at what age, what form/manifestation, where did it occur and what was the nationality of the perpetrator? <i>Would you like to give us the full story?</i>	
E2	How did you/victim come into contact with the offender? What did you/victim receive in return?	
E3	Can you describe any form of harm (emotional, physical or attitudinal change) that you/victim suffered as a result of involvement in CST?	
E4	What do you think can be done to address this issue of CST? What role do you think you can play to help protect children from CST? – eg. report suspected CST offender or help child at risk, etc	

ANNEX VII

Interview Guide – Children

GHANA NGOs COALITION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (GNCRC)
Research on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel & Tourism in Western and Central Regions of Ghana

FGD Guide– Children (Victims/At Risk)

Greetings

I am *(name)* from *(place of residence)*. I have been sent by **GNCRC** to collect data for a **RESEARCH ON THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM in the Central and Western Regions**. Could you please, allow me to ask you some questions on this subject?

Please, note that any information you share with us will be used only for the purpose of this assignment and shall be treated confidentially.

Thank you.

General Questions for All Respondents

Section A - Establishing Rapport (Breaking the ice Questions)

S/N	QUESTION	RESPONSE/COMMENT
A1	How do you feel generally about the situation of children in Ghana today?	
A2	What are some of the critical issues of concern to you about children?	
A3	Have you considered this issue of Child Sex Tourism (CST)? <i>[Please explain to respondent if he/she no idea of CST]</i>	
A4	Do you mind if we devote sometime to talk about this issue a little while?	

Section B – Profile of Children

B1	What is your age? Please record the sex of the child.	
B2	Do you attend school? If not, did you complete JHS or at what level did you drop out of school?	
B3	Are your parents living in this city/town? If no, which part of Ghana do you come from, who brought you here and who are you living with now?	
B4	If you came here on your own, why did you come here (i.e., what did you come to do here)?	
B5	Are you employed? If yes, how long ago? If no, were you previously employed? In which company or sector are/were you employed?	
B6	Are you aware of any children or friends who have sexual encounter with adults? Have you had any sexual encounter with an adult?	

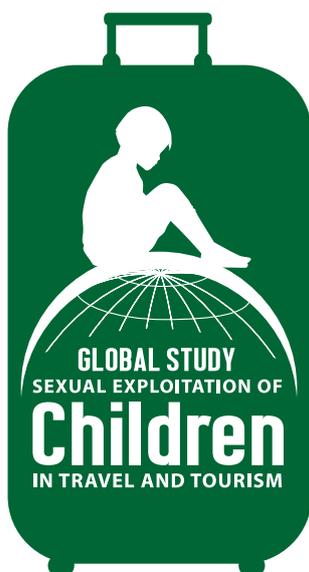
Section C – Profile of the Offender

C1	Is the adult a Ghanaian or foreign national?	
C2	Is the adult from here or other town/city? If from other town/city, what did the person come to do here?	
C4	How did you come into contact with the person - through what medium? E.g. middlemen arranged the meeting, you met the person on your own, the person used gifts to entice you, etc	

C5	Where did you meet this person? – Brothel, hotel, beach, night club, Internet, etc. How long ago did you meet the person?	
C6	Please describe what happened between you and this person – sexual intercourse, taking nude photos, internet grooming via webcam, etc	
C7	What did you receive from this encounter? – e.g. money, gifts, etc. Whom did you receive from? – the person, middlemen or employer	
C8	Did you suffer any consequence as a result of this encounter? Briefly describe this negative consequence or harm to you.	
C9	What do you think can be done to protect children from sexual exploitation in travellers, tourists, migrant workers, etc?	

Section D – Victim Support

D1	Are you aware of any Government Agencies, NGOs or individual who provide support to victims or children at risk of CST/CSEC? If Yes, mention some of them	
D2	If Yes to D1, are you in contact with any of these organizations that support victims or children at risk?	
D3	Please describe the kinds of support received from organization referred to in D2 above.	



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

