



UNIVERSITY OF  
GOTHENBURG

## **Degree Report**

**Provisions of social workers to victims of internal child trafficking in Uganda: A case study  
of children living on the streets of Kampala City.**

Master's Programme in Social Work and Human Rights

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## **Dedication**

To my sister Kyomuhendo Betty (RIP) and Mr. Twikirize Wilberforce, for turning my dream to reality. Without your, you on my side attaining a Master of Social Work and Human Rights would have remained a mere dream. Finally, to all my teachers of Social Work and Human Rights for your encouragement and endless support.

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## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

CBO	:	Community Based Organization
COVID-19	:	Corona Virus Disease 2019
FM	:	Frequency Modulation
HIV	:	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
KCCA	:	Kampala Capital City Authority
MoLGSD	:	Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development
MoLHUD	:	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
NEMA	:	National Environmental Management Authority
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
PTSD	:	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RCS	:	Routine Counseling Services
STIs	:	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	:	United Nations
UNCRC	:	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US	:	United States
UWA	:	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WOCON	:	Women’s Consortium of Nigeria

## Abstract

Human trafficking has become a serious global challenge in the recent past. Regarded as a global epidemic, it has triggered an increase in numbers of children living on the streets especially in countries where internal trafficking in children is a common social vice. This has resulted into a syndemic as a social evil in human trafficking has triggered another social evil in resident children on the streets of urban centres. The conditions of street life have made the resident children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation hence providing a task to social workers to work out mechanisms of ensuring that the welfare and living conditions of street children are improved. Basing on this proposition, the purpose of the study was to establish provisions of social workers to trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city in Uganda. The study was guided by three specific objectives, one to establish the service needs of the children living on the streets, two, to examine the perceptions and opinions of the children living on the streets about the approaches used by social workers in meeting their needs and the challenges facing social workers in providing for the service needs of children living on the streets. The study was guided by the Needs-Hierarchy Theory of Abraham Maslow and Ecological Systems Theory by Bronfenbrenner. The study adopted a qualitative approach mainly involving 12 children aged 15-17 years who were living on the streets and supported by social workers. Their responses were substantiated by 5 social workers, 3 elected political leaders and 1 NGO leader. Data were collected using interviews and analyzed using narrative text and verbatim quotations. Results of the study revealed that children living on the streets are vulnerable to economic and sexual exploitation while also, they are prone to physical injuries and emotional abuse. These conditions have therefore brought about an increase in the service needs of children living on the streets such as counseling, life-skills training, emotional protection, physical protection, healthcare needs and vocational skills. These needs are cited as critical for the holistic development of children by Abraham Maslow. The study also established that, social workers in Kampala city faced by the above service gaps, have adopted preventive remedial and follow-up approaches to ensure that the needs are met and these were perceived to be vital in the lives of children living on the streets. The study further established that, social workers faced social and structural challenges that hampered the effectiveness of the approaches used including mistrust from the children and threats from traffickers, among others. The study concluded that human trafficking has brought about a proportionate increase in the numbers of children living on the streets and consequent human rights abuses. The study recommended need for a policy to abate human trafficking and need for improved working conditions for social workers dealing with children living on the streets.

*Key words: Human trafficking, Street children, Kampala, Maslow, Social workers, Service needs, Perceptions*

## **CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

In the last decade, cases of human trafficking have been awash in local and international media. Children are one of the victims (Bakibinga, 2022; Kasirye et al., 2022; McComark & Hing, 2022). The traffickers take advantage of children living in areas that are vulnerable to shocks such as natural disasters, drought as well as other problem situations such as poverty and food insecurity. The children are lured into traps especially when they are promised a better life in the new environments (Christopherson, 2022). For instance, they are promised better paying domestic and commercial jobs especially in urban centres (Ocan et al., 2022; van Doore & Nhep, 2022). When such promises fail to work out, the internally trafficked children are dumped by the traffickers. Consequently, the children ran to the streets in cities and other urban centres. This coping mechanism is commonly used by trafficked children in Uganda. Uganda is one of the three countries that make up East Africa. It is bordered by South Sudan in North, Democratic Republic of Congo in West, Tanzania in the South, Kenya in the East and Rwanda in the South-West. The capital city of Uganda is Kampala. Until recently in 2020 when 7 more cities (namely Fort Portal, Masaka, Jinja, Lira, Mbale, Arua and Mbarara) were created by elevating the political status of old serving municipalities, Kampala was the only city. Established in 1962, the city is strategically located with five hills of Kawempe, central, Makindye, Nakawa and Lubaga, bordering Lake Victoria and covering an area of 189km<sup>2</sup>, of which 10% is water. The city is also covered largely by swamps which have been extensively degraded for economic and personal benefits. It is the major industrial, leisure and political hub of the Country. It is a highly informal sector economy, characterized by unregistered businesses, under cover business dealings and vibrant transport sector. Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) estimates that Kampala has over 2 million nighttime residents, and over 13 million transient population (UBOS, 2020). This population is supporting rapid economic growth of the city with increasing industrialization and foreign investment that taps the cheap labour and extensive market opportunity. The city has a large civil society presence and hosts the headquarters of numerous national and international civil society organizations. It is also shaped by a rich cultural inclination as it is the headquarters of Buganda Kingdom, whose values shape the way people live. Based on these developments, Kampala is a home to over 90 percent of the street children in the country. Thus, the motivation

for this study was, are there children living on the streets of Kampala city who are victims of internal child trafficking? If yes, then the street environment has a plethora of challenges which precipitate an increase in the spate of abuse and human rights violations. Could this be the case of trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala? If yes, what could be their service needs?

## **1.1 Background to the study**

### **1.1.1 Global spread of human trafficking**

Human trafficking is a global epidemic (Greenbaum et al., 2023; Pallika, 2022) that has persisted for many decades. It is a perennial problem in the United States of America (US Department of Justice, 2022; US Department of Education, 2021) as is the case in Europe (Wasif, 2017). Equally, the vice is common in South and Southeast Asia (Rafferty, 2016) and too, in Africa (Shitinda, 2023; Women's Consortium of Nigeria [WOCON], 2023). Uganda is not an exception as shown by several studies (Green et al., 2023; Nammy et al., 2022; Offia, 2020). This study is contextualized on children victims of human trafficking within Uganda and specifically those living on the streets. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery (Beutin, 2023; Sasaki, 2012; Spillane, 2019) and a 'lucrative' business for the actants (Laborn, 2023; McCarty, 2023; Yesufu, 2020). Its importance is underlined by the estimated global financial transactions of about \$150 billion (Lockwood, 2023). To scale down the magnitude of challenges facing nations with a high case of trafficking in children, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) provides framework of legal guidance to mitigate the challenges facing street children (Weatherill et al., 2023). However, it should be noted that much as many nations have ratified the Convention, the social problem of trafficking in children is still at large, with policy makers grappling with the challenge of hatching plausible ways and means of counteracting the vice (Bromfield et al., 2023).

The global impact of human trafficking has affected almost every country as it is estimated that over 21 million people have been trafficked over time (Lockwood, 2023). This is an indicator of how human trafficking is a growing human rights violation happening globally. The ascent of ever-increasing costs of living, poverty and instability are exposing people to various vulnerabilities that exacerbate human trafficking (Laborn, 2023). Human trafficking can be defined simply as the transfer of persons by fraudulent means for exploitative purposes (United

Nations [UN], 2008). However, the United Nations, through the Palermo Protocol Paper of 2000 broadly defined human trafficking to include the recruitment, transportation, transfer and receipt of persons by means of threat or force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception and abuse of power, the giving and or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person, for the purposes of exploitation (UN, 2008). Trafficking is an issue of concern because of the multiple forms of abuse that a trafficked individual is subjected to. The exploitation described in the definition of the Palermo Protocol include, sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery (or practices like slavery), servitude and harvesting of human organs (UN, 2008). All these depict the inhumane treatment which goes against various United Nations, regional and national polices, and the moral obligation for protecting humanity.

Victims of human trafficking include children, adolescents and adults (Lockwood, 2023). The concern of this study is children. A child is defined as a person below the consent age of 18 years (UNICEF and Terre des Homes Fund, 2006). Children are more vulnerable to trafficking compared to adolescents and adults (Lockwood, 2023). Trafficking in children is the fastest growing illegal trade (Ngalomba, 2020), which has led to growing international recognition that child trafficking is a serious violation of children's rights. According to the UNCRC, child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, and receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation regardless for the means used to obtain custody of the child. Trafficked children are removed from their family environment, transported, sold, and placed into an exploitative context (Pallika, 2022). In 2018, it was estimated that 30% of the victims of human trafficking were children. The statistics showed a great disparity between girls and boys where, 23% were girls, and 7% boys (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2018). Martinho et al. (2022) adds that 50% of boys were trafficked for forced labor, 27% for sexual exploitation, and 23% for other forms of exploitation like forced begging; while; 72% of girls were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 21% for forced labor, and 7% for other reasons.

This study is focusing on internal trafficking. United States Department of Justice (2022) defines internal trafficking as cases of trafficking and exploitation of adults or children within their country. It does not involve crossing any international borders (UNICEF and Terre des Homes

Foundation, 2006). Trafficking in children is serious crime and violates their rights (Chin, 2014). This accounts for why legal frameworks such as Palermo Protocol have been developed to combat this heinous act (Chin, 2014). The modes of recruiting the children are both voluntary and involuntary (WOCON, 2023). Voluntary recruitment involves collusion between parents and the traffickers to transport the children to cities for paid work. On another hand, peer pressure activities induce the children to develop curiosity to move to cities or even to run away from what they consider as ‘not-so-good’ village and upcountry life to urban centers where they believe that the living conditions are by far ‘better’ (WOCON, 2023). The rural and upcountry areas in most developing countries are characterized economic crises and extreme poverty, abandonment, and dysfunctional families (Pallika, 2022). Poverty for example can lead them to accept risky and uncertain proposals of income acquisition. Children who are abused at home can also be manipulated by traffickers into friendly relationships, after which they are taken away from their homes with the belief that they are going to be helped, only to be trafficked for exploitation. Collectively, these serve as ‘push’ triggers that cause the children to be entangled in the web of traffickers (Pallika, 2022). In addition, UNODC (2018) cited globalization, natural disasters, poverty, political instabilities, gender inequalities, weak laws and corrupt law enforcement, influence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and limited birth registration as additional triggers of human trafficking. These factors lead children into the hands of traffickers who eventually abuse them leading to adverse physical, social, psychological and economic impacts (Sambo, 2012). On the involuntary perspective, the children are kidnapped by the traffickers or their agents (WOCON, 2023).

Martinho et al. (2022) note that trafficking of children is perpetrated by different parties. In this study, a perpetrator is conceived to mean any person who directly or indirectly participates in trafficking children either knowingly or unknowingly. The perpetrators of trafficking children include professionals. Such include adoption officers, teachers and government officials in justice systems and health departments as well as corrupt immigration officials (Sambo, 2012). Non-professionals commonly reported in trafficking children include cargo and passenger transporters as well as ‘dealers’ and ‘agents’. The dealers ply different locations for purposes of trafficking the children while the agents work with the dealers at community level. This shows that a racket of people participates in the trafficking children from the sources to the destinations. Victims of internal child trafficking are mainly destined for domestic service, shop-attendance,

catering service, head-loading, hawking and other drudge jobs (WOCON, 2023). Not all the trafficked children find these jobs. Majority of them who fail to land on one, find themselves languishing on streets (Offia, 2020). These become resident street children. The children find it challenging to meet basic needs while many fail to easily access health services whenever they fall sick (Shitindi, 2023). On the streets, the children are vulnerable to many life-threatening conditions (Chattarjee et al., 2023) including child labour. Social and medical studies have documented the deleterious effects of child labour on their wellbeing. For instance, Chatterjee et al. (2023) noted that depending on the type of work, child labour harms the physical, mental and emotional facets of a child. These medical, mental, and emotional health challenges leave the children traumatized (Greenbaum et al., 2023).

To cope with such difficulties, children resort to begging, unsafe sex and informal petty income-generating activities including car-washing and empty bottle collection from municipal skips and garbage collection points (Shitinda, 2023). In worst case scenarios, the sickly opt for self-medication (Shitindi, 2023). Pallika (2022) sums up the above situation as social pathology of street life. Self-medication may also not be a universal coping mechanism since it is determined by the ability to engage in some paid work to raise money for affording drugs in pharmacies and drug selling points. What happens to the very young children whenever they fall sick, leaves many questions unanswered. The foregoing implies that trafficked children living on the streets have many unmet needs which brings the role of social workers in play.

### **1.1.2 The roles of social workers**

The International Federation of Social Work [IFSW] (2014) defines social work as a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Social work is widely regarded as a helping profession which provides services for vulnerable community members in order to improve their social functioning in society and to achieve their full potential (Amadasun, 2022). Social work is also a means by which institutions both public and civil society exert their control with power over people and the communities. Grounded in social justice and human rights, social work incorporates knowledge and skills at both micro and macro-levels to address social dysfunctions in communities such as child trafficking (Mahapatra et al., 2016).

As noted earlier, the children living on the streets live under difficult and sometimes, unbearable conditions (Munobwa et al., 2023; Pallika, 2022). The unsecured environment on the streets increases the vulnerability of children living to physical, social and mental trauma which affects their life. These negative impacts require a range of prevention and remedial measures from professionals such as social workers (Amadsun, 2022; Palmer et al., 2010). For better services delivery, Chattarjee et al. (2023) highlight that social workers are supposed to engage other professionals so that holistic support is provided through research, media campaigns and initiation of projects that can improve the social and economic livelihood of the children. Equally, the projects are also supposed to cater for awareness creation and advocacy for purposes of preventing and combating trafficking of children (Palmer et al., 2010).

### **1.1.3 Social workers in Uganda**

Social workers in Uganda as is the case elsewhere, are professionals whose commitment is on the realization of social justice, human rights, and respect for human diversity (Wamara, 2022). Social work in Uganda has a big proportion of professionals. There are 185,000 social workers. A large pool of these professionals is employed in the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Some of the professionals have membership in the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda (NASWU), independent professional associations listed with International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and supervised by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (International Federation of Social Workers [IFSWU], 2023; NASWU, 2023). Social work is one of the oldest trades in Uganda (Twikirize, 2014). Before the formalization of the profession, the extended family system and kinship system were the key institutions that carried out social work during colonial era. This role was magnified by the fact that during this period, the two systems were very powerful. The traditional chiefs were charged with the leadership of the societies and these were highly revered by the subjects (Twikirize, 2014). Social work during this period handled challenges ranging from family conflicts to child protection. The need for social work grew in magnitude in the 1950s when the British colonialists established schools and hospitals in Uganda. Probations services, children's homes and adoption services were also introduced during this period (Twikirize, 2014). On 9 October 1962, Uganda gained her political independence from the British and the early years of independence were marked by phenomenal establishment of government social services. This created an impetus for starting social work

training at Makerere University in 1969 to fill the manpower gaps in social work that arose in this post-independence period (Twikirize, 2014). In the present situation, efforts are being made to localize the social work profession in Uganda, given that fact that since independence, Ugandans have been plying trade in social work basing on the Western models (Tusasiirwe, 2021; Twikirize, 2014; Wamara et al., 2023). For this reason, social work in Uganda has been known for long as a '*mzungu*' adopt (Twikirize & Spitzer, 2019).

The social work profession is heavily despised in Uganda and therefore, the professionals do not command considerable respect from the populace (Byamukama, 2020). In fact, the government has on several occasions openly criticised higher education institutions for insisting on training social workers by among others branding the profession as "useless" and one of the reasons why the continued training of the social workers is partly to blame for the blazing levels of unemployment (Byamukama, 2020). This state of affairs has led to poor working conditions for the social workers with Pay Scale (2023) reporting that the average annual pay for a social work is UGX. 5,005,046 (equivalent to SEK 13,663.30). Social workers are therefore one of the poorly paid professionals in Uganda's public and private sector employment system. Despite the above challenges, social workers are in short supply, yet the social work profession is pivotal to the socio-economic development of Uganda. The limited numbers of professional social workers are reflected by the urgency of their need with some organizations in Uganda coping with shortage of professionals by employing para social workers (PSW) (Driscoll, 2020).

#### **1.1.4 Social workers and trafficked children in Uganda**

In 2009, Uganda, enacted a law on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009 meant to address challenges of human trafficking. However, the cases of trafficking in persons have been rising consistently since 2015 (Ministry of Internal Affairs-Uganda, 2021). Evidence from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Uganda on internal child trafficking indicated that, out of 371 cases recorded in 2021, 345 were internal trafficking cases, totaling to 93% of the trafficked children (Ministry of Internal Affairs-Uganda, 2021). Trafficked children as young as seven years old are exploited for forced labour on farms, fishing, cattle herding, mining, stone quarrying, brick making, carpentry, street vending, street begging, working in restaurants, and in homes as domestic workers (Ministry of Internal Affairs-Uganda, 2021).

As is the case elsewhere in Africa, Uganda faces the challenges of street children (Murungi et al., 2023; Ojok et al., 2022). A big proportion of these street children are victims of internal trafficking notwithstanding the fact that Uganda enacted the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act in 2009. The persistence of this social problem further highlights the sheer failure of the international, regional and national legal frameworks to abate human trafficking. The victim children engage in domestic unpaid work, on farms, in cattle herding, and in mining and quarrying activities. However, a very big proportion fail to be absorbed in the said activities end up running to streets in the urban centres (Ojok et al., 2022). Kampala city, the capital of Uganda is the main destination of trafficked children because of better socio-economic conditions compared to other urban centres across the country (Offia, 2020). The historical importance of Kampala city and its monopoly position as only city since Uganda got her independence in 1962 up to June 2020 when the Parliament of Uganda upgraded 7 long-serving municipalities to city status accounts for why the city is perceived to have more improved welfare and better life than other environs in Uganda (Mbabazi & Ankunda, 2020). Therefore, it is not by accident that all corners of the Kampala city (most especially around busy places such as shopping malls, roundabouts, flyovers, amusement parks) are dotted with several street children from dawn to dusk, January through December. At night, when one moves through the city, it is common to find many of them, girls and boys sleeping inside polyfibre gunny bags on the verandahs of commercial houses, the reason, I address their situation as wanting or precarious.

Given the gravity of this social problem, concerned authorities such as Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and a plethora of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have not turned a deaf ear and in the due process, they have recruited social workers to enable the institutions to work out the best ways and means of meeting the needs of these children. The social workers are also tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that the human rights of these children are protected jealously. Against this backdrop, the study set out to assess the roles that social workers have played in meeting the needs of trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city as well as the impact of their services on the welfare of the street children. This was specifically done through understanding the needs of trafficked children, the roles that social workers are playing to address the needs and any possible challenges that the social workers were facing in dealing with the trafficked children living on the streets in Kampala city.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

The government of Uganda passed the Trafficking in Persons Act in 2009 with anticipation that the social vice would be mitigated. However, 14 years later (in 2023), child trafficking has instead continued to be one of the social vices plaguing the country. This vice has caused a tremendous increase in the numbers of resident street children in many urban centres, Kampala city inclusive. Like other human beings, children living on the streets have social, physical and life needs which must be met for them to survive. Failure to meet these needs has compelled the children living on the streets to adopt socially undesirable coping mechanisms, some of which are life-threatening such as engagement in premarital sex (and consequently, a sharp rise in the numbers of teenage mothers living on the streets) (Murungi et al., 2023). Further evidence is provided by Ministry of Internal Affairs (2021) which reported that the precarious conditions lived by the children on the streets have made them a ‘prey’ of gullible people especially those who engage in human sacrifice, organ harvesting, harmful rituals such as witchcraft purposes, forced/child marriages and pornography. A combination of these challenges has increased the level of mental illnesses, declining health, squalor and loss of hope among the children living on the streets. While both the state and non-state actors have recruited social workers to help in providing palliative care services, children living on the streets in Kampala have continued to become a social and security problem (Olaniyi et al., 2021); they are engaging in risky social behaviors such as drug abuse and pick-pocketing (Bwambale et al., 2021) while many others have often contemplated to commit suicide (Kafuko et al., 2022). It is not clear why these risky social behaviors have continued to manifest and yet social workers are running programmes that should have catered for the emotional, social, economic and psychosocial needs of these children. Hence, need for this study that aimed at establishing the perceptions and opinions of children living on the streets about the provisions of the social workers for meeting their needs in order to propose policy recommendations for social workers in particular and the government of Uganda in general.

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The aim of this study is to explore perceptions and opinions about the provisions of social workers and their impacts on meeting the needs of children living in the streets of Kampala city.

This is explored from the views of the children themselves, social workers, political leaders and NGOs.

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

- a) To examine the service needs of trafficked children living on streets in Kampala city.
- b) To examine the perceptions and opinions of children living on the streets about the viability of the approaches used by social work in addressing their needs.
- c) To establish the challenges that social workers are facing in addressing the needs of trafficked children living on the streets in Kampala city.

### **1.4 Research questions**

- a) What service are articulated and wanted by trafficked children living on streets?
- b) How do children living on the streets perceive the approaches used by social workers in addressing their needs?
- c) What are the challenges facing social workers while addressing the needs of trafficked children living on streets?

### **1.5 Theoretical basis of the study**

I adopted two theories to provide a clearer understanding of the study. These were: Needs Hierarchy Theory and Ecological Systems Theory. This decision was backed by Akintoye (2015) and Simon and Goes (2011) who recommend that any person interested in reporting holistic findings ought to adopt an eclectic approach. Eclecticism caters for the shortcomings of one theory as the gaps inherent are corrected or minimized by the rigour and credibility of another (other) theories. Consequently, researchers are enabled to report findings grounded in well-rounded discussion or theoretical debate (Simon & Goes, 2011).

#### **1.5.2 Needs-Hierarchy Theory**

The study was anchored on tenets of Needs-Hierarchy Theory advanced by Abraham Maslow in 1943. According to the Theory, human beings have needs that must be met for full development to be realized. The needs are arranged in an incremental order, that is to say, one cannot realise a second level need before the first level or preceding level needs are met (Kathy, 2017; Maslow,

1956, 1998, 2008; Nasir et al., 2014). The first level needs are referred to as physiological needs. They include quenching thirst and hunger, supply of oxygen, sensory stimulation, sleep, and sexual gratification. With exception of sexual gratification since the study focused on children, the rest of the physiological needs must be provided to an individual for them to live (Maslow, 2008). According to Nasir et al. (2014), these needs are indispensable and are mandatory if the equilibrium within the body is to be perfectly restored. Nasir et al. (2014) in appraising physiological needs argue that in situations when one has no food, the need for higher-order need such as esteem ceases to be important. The next level of needs expounded by the theory are safety needs (Maslow, 1956, 1998). These needs presuppose that normal life prevails when the individual such as street children is provided with a structured environment where there are set limits and boundaries and fixed patterns or orderly patterns, the individual will feel safe and will rate the atmosphere as safe (Nasir et al., 2014). Furthermore, Maslow mentions that social needs are important for normal growth and development of an individual. The urge for belongingness is manifested at this level and therefore, a home and a neighborhood are qualifying marks for one to realise the needed affiliation and love (Maslow, 1956). This level of needs once fulfilled, opens doors for a human being to express their desire for positive self-worth. In relation to this study, the lack of home for attachment by street children implies that they can hardly realise the safety needs. They will feel insecure and this compounds their quest to realise esteem needs. The esteem needs at this level are manifested by the desire to become confident and competent while failure to meet these needs spells doom on one's life as evidenced by case scenarios where people become diffident, inferior and helpless. The failure to meet esteem needs implies that an individual can hardly attain the last level of needs, self-actualization. Self-actualization is manifested by our untiring efforts to reach our full potential (Maslow, 1956, 1998). At this highest level, our talents and potentials are used to the fullest.

The choice of the theory to underpin this study is based on the premise that the needs of trafficked children living on the streets fall under the following categories as identified by Maslow; physiological, social, security, esteem and self-actualization. As identified earlier, these needs are incremental in such a way that when lower needs must be fulfilled or met before the following higher order needs can be realized. For example, the highest need, human self-actualization will not be realized unless the physiological needs have been met (Maslow, 1943). The theory was adopted by this study in order to enable me to establish the degree to which the

several needs of trafficked children living on the streets are catered for by the social workers such as clothing, food, housing and security so that the children are protected from human rights abuses such as organ harvesting, human sacrifice and rituals. The theory was equally important in enabling me to relate the interventions of the social workers in meeting the different levels of needs of trafficked children living on the streets. The theory was therefore vital in enabling me to assess whether the approaches used by social workers in Kampala city have met the different need levels of the children as well as the efficacy of the strategies in predicting the realization of the unmet needs of the children living on the streets of Kampala city.

### **1.5.2 Ecological Systems Theory**

The study was also anchored on tenets of Ecological Systems Theory. The theory is a brainchild of Urie Bronfenbrenner and was propounded in 1979. The praxis of the theory is about the ecology of human development. The theory is focused on how a person develops interactively with their immediate environment. The environment is multifaceted and is used in this study to mean both the social and physical milieu. Further, the emphasis of the theory is about how the impacts of some of the aspects of the larger social context on a person's individual's immediate settings. Bronfenbrenner (1979) theorized that in the ever-widening world (*sic* environment), an individual is a developing creature and plays an active role. This conception is mirrored in the definition of human development that Bronfenbrenner (1979) provides as follows: "Human development denotes a process by which a growing person acquires a more extended differentiated, and valid conception of the ecological environment, and becomes motivated and able to engage in activities that reveal the properties of, sustain, or restructure that environment at levels of similar or greater complexity inform and content" (p. 27). This definition of human development departs completely from the conception by psychologists who conceive human development as referring to an individual without any due regard to the surrounding environment (Andersson, 2002).

Three central concepts emphasized by Ecological Systems Theory are: environment, adaptation and stress. The theory describes the environment as the totality of settings in which a person lives. This setting means any place where one can readily engage with others in a face-to-face manner. This setting may be social or physical and its interplay between the two mediated by the

cultural norms and beliefs, the norms, knowledge dynamics and the nature of social interactions that take place. Bronfenbrenner typifies the physical environment as both natural and manmade developments. The man-made developments are conceived in this study to mean the built environment. On the other hand, the social setting or environment denotes the relationships between an individual and other individual at community and societal levels. Bronfenbrenner noted that in the environment, there are transactions and corresponding outcomes. The transactions can compel an individual to modify their behavior in order to fit in it while also, the individual can modify the environment in the quest of meeting their physical and psychological needs. Where an individual finds no solution in the transactions, they fail to benefit from this reciprocity and can choose to cope with the pressures by relocating to a new environment for survival (Germania & Gittermans, 1980). In such an environment therefore, the primacy of any endeavors to render any services to the individual is to ensure sustainable transactions between the individual and the environment. The above description gives rise to adaptation, the second concept embedded in the theory. Defined, adaptation refers to the efforts undertaken by an individual to fit in the environment so that they can survive and develop. Adaptation is a two-pronged process which in one way, entails the conformance of an individual to the environment thereby compelling them to change to the environmental dictates, while on other hand, the environment equally changes in conformance to the individual's needs and aspirations. The last concept is stress. Defined, this is an upset that occurs whenever an individual is adapting to the environment. When there is a deviation between the individual's needs and capacities and what the environmental resources demands and resources can possibly offer, the outcome is stress. Bronfenbrenner theorized that this stress may be constructive in instances when environmental demands and resources are favorable or destructive, when they are not.

The conceptual insights raised above have given rise to the following seven principles':1) Reciprocity between person and environment such that while the individual affects the environment, the environment also affects the individual. 2) The environment is a whole including the functional social system in it. 3) The physical environment has considerable influence on the social processes. 4) There is joint impact of two or more settings and between their elements.5) An individual can thrive and survive in more than one environment or setting and can also be influenced by the subsystems in each setting.6) Ecological transitions occur in a person's life and 7) The existence of several systems and several individuals. These principles

open up into ecosystems. The systems are micro-system, meso-system, exo-system and macro-system. According to Andersson (2002), while these systems might be conceived to be hierarchically ranked over each other, they are not. Rather, they are a nested arrangement of concentric structures, each contained within the next (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). The individual (also called an ontogenetic system) is the innermost component. The individual uses their biological and psychological make-up as well as their history to ensure that they survive in the environment (Bronfenbrenner, 1994). The individual in this context is a street child whose life patterns have been explicated in Chapter Two of this study. Street children as an ontogenetic system will be elaborated in more. The next immediate component is the micro-system, which in this study is addressed to mean interactions with family, close friends and immediate neighborhoods. This is the place of belonging to a child which involves one-on-one interaction between the child and another person, usually a mother. This relationship becomes complex as the child grows and develops friendship with peers. This equally highlighted in the Needs Hierarchy Theory where children have social needs that must be met if they are to live happily. Therefore, any perturbations in the micro-system can therefore cause changes that have greater effect on the individual. The successive level after the micro-system is the meso-system. This pertains to the community dynamics. This is formed whenever an individual moves to a new environment (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, 1994). This does with formation of social networks as well as the dynamics of communication in the environment. One prime example of the meso-system is the neighborhood. Longress (1990) noted that communities are centres where socialization, innovations and controls take place. To adjust and become self-sufficient, the mentioned activities or standards play a big role in enabling an individual and their family to seamlessly be integrated in the community. The third level is the exo-system is the part of the environment that exerts influence on the individual. The individual on the other hand does not have any degree of influence on this part of the ecosystem. For example, workplace dynamics influence a child by dictating the kind of interactions that must take place between them and their working parents. The exo-system was not used in this study because it was beyond the study scope. In the context of this study, the exosystem included the policy-making institutions such as Kampala Capital City Authority, MoLGSD, Uganda Police Force and the Parliament of Uganda who from time to time, pass standards that must be observed in certain parts of Kampala City. This environment has a unidirectional relationship with the needs of trafficked children living on the streets in a

way that it has a direct influence on the lives of the children but cannot be influenced by the children themselves. For instance, while the mentioned institutions usually engage with stakeholders, the children living on the streets are never involved. Therefore, the exclusion of this component of Ecological Theory from this study was largely influenced by the fact that street children had little to share about these institutions. Lastly, we have the macro-system. This is the overall frame and provides the requisite conditions for the performance of the other systems (micro, meso and exo) (Andersson, 1986). It includes the conditions prevailing in the society, the norms and the values and belief systems at national level (Andersson, 2002).

I adopted the Ecological Systems Theory because the aspect of children living on the streets is very complex such that providing any substantial explanations and descriptions requires one to have a clearer understanding of three ecosystems. As well, the perceptions and opinions of the street children about the provisions of the social workers cannot be easily understood when there is a lack of understanding about the ways and means by which the trafficked children living on the streets interact, cope with and adapt to the street environment. By failing to do so, it would become practically impossible to relate the provisions of the social workers to meeting the social needs of the and to establish the extent of the roles of these provisions in correcting the deficiencies and gaps existing between the interactions of the children and the street environment. To this effect, Sitienei and Pillay (2018) concede that when one is able to identify and understand the conditions of the children, one is able to formulate sustainable strategies that are capable of meeting the needs of those living on the streets while equally helping in proposing strategies that would help to minimize the possibility of children in the upcountry settings giving in to the traffickers.

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

There is paucity of empirical studies about the perceptions and opinions of trafficked children living on the streets about their service needs and the extent to which their needs have been met by social workers. Therefore, the findings of this study are beneficial to the several following parties.

- a) **Government of Uganda:** To the policy makers in the Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development and Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development in Uganda,

this study is timely and will therefore provide evidence of service needs of trafficked children, roles that can be initiated to address the challenges and solutions to challenges that may affect any evolved intervention. This will lead to development of feasible strategies that can meet the needs of the trafficked children living on the streets as well as preventive approaches for trafficking children in Uganda.

- b) **Advocates of Children living on the Streets:** To the advocates of child welfare and rights such as NGOs, CBOs and the several Departments and Agencies in Uganda, this study will be a source of evidence to further voice their concerns about the plight of trafficked children and thereby, create awareness in the community to reduce and remedy the challenges that are serving as triggers for increasing child trafficking.
- c) **Resident street children:** To the trafficked children living on the streets, the findings reported in this study are likely to attract increased attention from the government and development partners. This information will pave way for possible interventions that might possibly cater for provision of quality holistic services to ensure they are rescued and supported to achieve full potential and normal child growth and development.
- d) **Future researchers:** To the academia, this study will add to paucity of literature about internal child trafficking in Uganda. At present, there is dearth of literature in this area especially about Uganda, with the existing studies devoting their concern on causes and living conditions of the children living on the streets. It will also hopefully lead to further research questions to address knowledge gaps on the topic of child trafficking.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Generally, human trafficking though considered illegal worldwide, is one of the key challenges facing law enforcement personnel (Marburger & Pickover, 2020). The practice is one of the most lucrative international criminal activities and is spread across a variety of industries (Van Buren III et al., 2021). Human trafficking has been internationalized by criminal networks that earn from exploitation of those trafficked (Cockbain & Bowers, 2019). However, it results in worst violation of human rights and manifests injustices (Chisolm-Straker et al., 2019). Although there are legislative, administrative and institutional measures to combat trafficking in Africa, the vice is at large and continues to manifest as a security threat (Ezeilo, 2018; Msuya, 2017). In this chapter, efforts were made to review related literature on trafficked children living on streets and their perceptions and opinions about roles played by social workers in addressing their service needs. Equally, the challenges facing social workers in meeting the needs of street children were explored. To come up with adequate literature, I used both sociology database collection and scopus to come up with textbooks, book chapters, journal articles and research reports that contained information related to the study concepts. The key words used were human trafficking\*, Child\*, social work in Africa\*, Social work in East Africa\*, role of social workers\*in supporting internally trafficked children living on streets while narrowing to location, years of publication and most cited sources in order to limit the number of results. The accessed literature is presented, critically analyzed and evaluated by the researcher in order to identify existing gaps and build content for the study.

### **2.2 Needs of trafficked children living on streets**

In this section, the service needs of trafficked children living on streets are reviewed. Studies (such as Rafferty, 2016; Amadasun, 2022; Pallaki, 2022) have shown that child trafficking victims endure harmful physical, social and mental health trauma, which lead them to develop personality and behavioral disorders. Such hinder them from realizing full development. These negative impacts require a range of prevention and remedial measures. The supportive interventions or measures are provided by a number of professionals such as social workers. The professionals are supposed to use the necessary tools and capacity to conduct needs assessment

so that they can best address the social needs of the trafficked children (Gabriela et al., 2020).

Amadasun (2022) established that education, health, social, justice services are vital for protecting trafficked children living on streets. However, Amadasun (2022) concedes that the professional service providers dealing with such children must act according to the needs of the child, and according to the best interest of the child. This observation coheres with the views of Gabriela et al. (2020) who contends that in order to be efficient, the needs must be provided by a multidisciplinary team for purposes of holistic service provision. The needs should also be provided with a focus on cultural sensitivity, trauma-informed care, and victim-centered approach (Gabriella et al., 2020). By implication therefore, these arguments compel social workers to provide referral services for trafficked children living on the streets and where possible, team up as a crew of professionals every other time they engage the street children so that the service needs are provided on an “as is” basis. Despite this argument, studies on the service needs of internally trafficked children in Uganda is lacking from the literature reviewed. This study sought to address this gap by identifying the service needs of children living on the streets of Kampala city.

### **2.3 Social work in Africa**

Social work in Africa has been continually evolving (Spitzer, 2019). It was common in precolonial Africa where the authority to carry out social work was vested in the family and kinship systems (Spitzer, 2019; Tusasiirwe, 2021; Twikirize, 2014). At the heart of this noble work was the unchallengeable influence of the traditional kings and chiefs. These determined the roles that were played by the social workers by them. At the turn of the 19th century, many African countries fell in the trap of colonialism. A few survivors included Liberia and Ethiopia. The colonial masters in Africa introduced several social services including hospitals and schools (Twikirize, 2014). The need for social workers emerged during this period and this paved way for the establishment of social worker training institutions. Spitzer (2019) noted that in the 1960s, majority of the African countries achieved their political independence and it is at this time that modern training institutions for social work personnel were established. It is imperative to note that even after independence, the training of social workers and social worker practice was based on the models of the colonial master (Spitzer, 2019; Tusasiirwe, 2021).

In East Africa, social work is largely considered as a foreign ‘thing’. Indeed, given this background about the professionalization of social work during colonial period, the profession is regarded a ‘*mzungu*’ adopt and specifically, in Tanzania, social world is regarded as an ‘adopted child’ (Spitzer, 2019). This departs from the latest philosophies adopted by African countries that are emphasizing indigenization of the developments. A case example is the Ubuntu philosophy that considers the western models of social workers as irrelevant to African needs (Tusasiirwe, 2021), hence resonating the earlier remark that social work in Africa is evolving continually. The belief is that indigenous models will make more sense and solve the underlying social challenges that have bedeviled Africa for a long time (Tusasiirwe, 2021). On this account, several Afrocentric models of social work have come into force, the latest being the village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) that were introduced in Africa in Niger by CARE (Musinguzi, 2023; Tusasiirwe, 2021). According to Wamara et al.(2023) and Luwangula et al.(2019), the models are promoting culturally relevant and culturally specific knowledge and practices.

Social work in East Africa as is the case elsewhere in Africa has limited job openings (Spitzer, 2019). This scenario is worsened by the fact that the suitors or employers are mainly urban based and yet according to the demographic characteristics of East African countries, a larger proportion of the people are based in rural areas (Spitzer, 2019). For example, while about 30 percent of employing organizations are in rural areas, about 10 percent are rural based in Uganda. Besides, while other professions in East Africa are regulated by the government warranting issuance of practicing certificates (such as journalists, engineers, lawyers, teachers, to mention but a few), the social work profession is not (Spitzer, 2019). This could partly account for why the profession has several crevices.

#### **2.4 Social workers and needs of trafficked children living on streets**

Children living on the streets find life challenging. These multifarious challenges faced by children living on streets require strategic interventions of social workers (Chattarjee et al., 2023). Their needs as discussed in the preceding sections, show how crucial, professional psychosocial care and support is given the wide range of needs (Pallika, 2022; Sambo & Spies, 2020). Rafferty (2018) recommends that when service providers are dealing with children on the streets, they are supposed to ensure that the support takes a human rights approach. Also, transcultural interventions must be adopted to ensure that the assistance provided is in the best

interest of the victim. The adoption of such approaches can ease the work of the social workers by for example easing counseling and development of cordial and trusting relationships between the social workers and the children living on streets.

To provide comprehensive services, Rafferty (2013) urges social workers to begin with identification of the victims of child trafficking. However, Rafferty (2013) concedes that this process can be daunting, given the concealed and covert nature of human trafficking and the pessimistic belief of the victims who decide against seeking assistance for fear of any emerging adverse effects. Once the victims are identified, needs assessment should be conducted by social workers (Hemmings et al., 2016). The needs assessment phase provides the social workers with the capacity to design strategies that can meet the needs of trafficked children holistically. Oketch et al. (2011) propose that the provision of immediate service needs should take a centre stage before the social workers can consider pushing the trafficked children into a rigorous legal process to prosecute their captors. Oketch et al. (2011) further argue that this does not mean that the social workers should be eliminated from the process of legal redress. Rather, they have a key role to play in helping the law enforcement officers to both provide care and conduct prosecution of the traffickers.

As indicated by Amadasun (2022), social workers play a referral role and have the potentials providing better prescriptions that other line service providers can base on to provide adequate support services to the trafficked children living on the streets. Children lack friendly spaces in many urban environments especially in the developing world (Masri & Fekry, 2022). As a result, some children living on the streets may become casualties of urban accidents and end up becoming disabled. This perinatal condition makes the disabled children even more vulnerable to social challenges as they can hardly become mobile to move between places. Social workers are supposed to give priority to such categories of children.

When social workers use a holistic approach, they are able to provide multiple services to the children living on the streets. Karthika (2021) concedes that such an approach affords them the opportunity to screen intersectional problems to identify and understand the broader challenges. Cohering with Karthika, Greenbaum et al. (2023) noted that social workers aiming at providing requisite support should adopt a trauma-informed, rights-based, culturally sensitive approach. By

doing so, they can easily identify and provide the needed help that addresses social challenges facing trafficked children. Greenbaum and colleagues underscore the need for engaging different professionals in form of a teamwork such as medical practitioners and clinical psychologists so that evidence-based medical screening, treatment, and holistic services are provided to the street children.

## **2.5 Challenges faced by social workers in addressing needs of trafficked children.**

Serving the street children by providing their needs is associated with challenges. For instance, identifying the victims is complicated. For instance, Botha and Warria (2021) showed that in South Africa, identification of victims was difficult for the social workers. This implies that trafficking victims are hard to identify because they may behave and socialize normally just like other people within their context, yet their rights are being violated. Fearing to be implicated, trafficked children might therefore fail to comply and engage with social workers because of the fear of deporting them to their villages.

Botha and Warria (2021) equally identified the challenge of insecurity of social workers. Working under suspicion and mistrust, the social workers may not feel secure working with trafficked children. Another source of insecurity are the dealers in trafficking in persons (Warria & Chikadizi, 2020). As earlier noted in the background section, human trafficking is a highly capitalized venture that is estimated at \$ 150 billion. For their safety therefore, the social workers may not allocate adequate time to the trafficked children and may even fear to establish the social challenges faced by the children for fear of backfire from the traffickers. Complicated trauma situations are also common with trafficked children (Gabriella et al., 2020), and this poses a challenge to social workers. Child trafficking victims have suffered both physical and emotional abuses that leave them traumatized extremely. This trauma exposes them to mental health challenges which impede their psychological and social functioning. This makes working with them a challenge for social workers (Botha & Warria, 2021).

As noted earlier, the children living on streets cope with the stressing conditions through substance abuse. By doing so, they turn into violent individuals. Client violence is a significant challenge that social worker practitioners face. While Munobwa et al. (2023) note that the violence meted on the social workers is largely non-physical, it can have far-reaching effects

ranging from low job satisfaction, development of perennial fear and turnover intentions. Munobwa et al. (2023) attribute the said decisions to the dilemma that social workers find themselves rocked in while attempting to strike a difference between client violence that is deviant behavior and one that calls upon them to assist a victim client who seems to be in a precarious situation.

## **2.6 Conclusion and emerging gaps**

The literature reviewed in the preceding sections has indicated that trafficked children living on streets have several unmet needs. These may be classed as social, emotional, physiological and esteem. The reviewed literature has equally shown that much as social workers have a major role to play in addressing the above unmet needs, the approaches used matter a lot. Less efficacious approaches cannot provide a lasting solution. Rather, they can cause more problems. For example, failing to take into considerations the cultural orientations of trafficked children living on the streets may jeopardize any interventions targeting the children. The review has equally shown that the social workers are limited by some factors while executing their roles. However, much as the review above has enabled the researcher to situate the study objectives in the existing knowledge body, there are contextual gaps since the studies were basically on other environments other than Uganda, in particular, Kampala city. Equally, some studies have subject gaps as they do not reflect the voices of children, a subject gap that was filled by this study.

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

The chapter provides a roadmap that was followed by the researcher in seeking answers for the research questions set in Chapter One. Specifically, it provides an overview of the research approach followed, the research design that guided the study, the target population, the sample size involved as well as the techniques adopted to select the sample, the methods used in collecting data, the procedures undertaken in ensuring that quality data is collected, the techniques that were used to analyze the data collected, ethical considerations that were observed in the study; and limitations of the study.

### **3.1 Research paradigm**

The outset of this study is qualitative. Therefore, I followed constructivism paradigm. Also referred to as interpretivism (Fard, 2012; Fazliogullari, 2012), the paradigm is premised on the assumption that any study aiming at understanding people and social phenomenon ought to ensure that they come up with meaning of the phenomenon and dig deep into the perceptions of the targeted respondents (Edwards & Holland, 2013; Fard, 2012; Fazliogullari, 2012). Thus, researchers adopting this paradigm are resigned to evaluate and refine existing theories than generating a new theory (Atwi & Hamza, 2015). This paradigm enabled me to understand the perceptions and opinions of children living on the streets about the extent to which their service needs are provided. The behaviors, perspectives, feelings, and experiences of children living on streets in Kampala city were therefore explored.

### **3.2 Study Design**

The study adopted an explanatory case study design to obtain the required information to answer the research questions. Case study design is adopted when a study is focusing on a specific location in order to gather in-depth data about the phenomena under study (Rubin & Babbie, 2013). Kampala city was the case study. Being explanatory, the design enabled the researcher in providing an analytical perspective or view about how the situation of the children living on the streets is and the extent to which their service needs have been met (Rubin & Babbie, 2013). In this study, the design was used to explain and explore the service needs of trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city, how social the ways and means through which social

workers are meeting the identified service needs and any possible challenges facing the social workers in working with children living on the streets of Kampala city to meet their service needs.

### **3.3. Target Population and sampling techniques**

The primary target population for the study was trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city and social workers in government and non-governmental organizations. The children were involved in the study as ultimate beneficiaries of social workers from both state and non-governmental organizations. The social workers were involved in the study, given their direct interaction with children living on streets and the professional commitments to ensuring a fairer world for children and any other vulnerable sections of the population. The top management of NGOs and KCCA was equally included in the study because they are charged with strategic planning for children living on the streets in the city.

From the three categories of target population, a manageable sample of 21 respondents were considered. As will be explained later under the subsection on ‘Positionality and Ethical Considerations’ only children between 15 and 17 years and able to understand and speak *Luganda* were targeted by this study and the participants were selected using simple random and respondent-driven sampling technique. According to Banning (2021) defines random sampling as a technique in which the entire study area targeted by a researcher every targeted population has equal chances of being engaged in the study. To draw the sample from the population, a researcher is supposed to use either systematic sampling technique or simple random sampling technique. Simple random sampling was used in selecting the respondent children. Defined, the technique involves according, equal chances to take part in the study (Illiyasu & Etikan, 2021). This ensured elimination of bias (Tsatiris, 2021). Kampala city is made up of 5 divisions (Central, Makindye, Rubaga, Nakawa and Kawempe). In each Division, there were more than 5 trafficked children living on the streets meeting the selection criteria (age bracket and fluency in *Luganda*). To come up with the actual sample, I switched to respondent-driven sampling.

According to Brown and Clarke (2006), the children living on the streets constitute one of hard-to-reach populations. This compelled me to apply respondent-driven sampling (RDS). This type of sampling entails the selection of initial participants referred to as seeds from the target

population. These seeds are engaged as the first respondents. They are then used to locate and recruit other study targets (Brown & Clarke, 2006). The recruitment is stopped when the sample size targeted by the study has been reached (Brown & Clarke, 2006). In each of the divisions that make up Kampala City, I made efforts and recruited a seed. The five seeds helped me to reach the targeted sample. To succeed in meeting a seed in each division, I was assisted by the business operators who had some connection with the respective children living on the streets. In every division of Kampala city, the street children had designated points where they commonly hang out. I got the tips from social workers that businesses around these points at times engaged some of the children to dust verandahs of business premises. To my advantage, they even mentioned some of the business units that regularly engaged these children. This provided me with insights of how to make the initial contacts because I become convinced that trusting relationships existed between the business operators and some of the street children. This eased the process of identifying the children whose names had been obtained from the offices of social workers. Thus, on my journey to meet the children, I was unaccompanied by any social workers. I introduced myself to the business managers and explained by purpose of the visit. I expressed to them that my intent was to speak to the children alone and therefore, requested to be assisted to locate any of those that made the list. This was important given the security conscience of the children living on the streets and their limited willingness to talk to strangers. Using this link between the business operators and some children, I was able to gain a connection. Each of the initial contacts was recruited as a seed and each seed in turn, helped me to reach out to other study targets. Overall, 15 children met the selection criteria. However, only 12 were willing to participate in the study. Therefore, the results reported in this thesis reflect the views and opinions of 12 children who participated in the study as shall be expounded on later in the positionality and ethical procedures section.

I also engaged five (5) social workers two of whom were from government and the rest, belonging to NGOs. This accounts for why more social workers were from NGOs since NGOs are more involved with children living on the streets compared to the government of Uganda. One representative from forum for NGOs that are operating in Kampala city and three elected politicians who participate in deliberating and passing policies for KCCA participated as key informants. All the politicians belonged to opposition parties. These were selected using

purposive sampling. This technique, according to Alvi (2016) involves the discretion of the researcher to select the sample basing on one's judgment that the selected individuals possess the information sought by the study and therefore, are knowledgeable about the aspects under examination. In total, the study involved a sample of 21 respondents. This was a manageable sample that never aimed at representativeness but rather to fulfill the need by this study of generating in-depth and comprehensive findings. This decision is rooted in the recommendation of Kumar (2018) and Crouch and McKenzie (2006) that qualitative researchers should target less than 40 participants so that they are able to build meaningful relationships, maintain closeness to the respondents, engender honest submissions from the respondents and weed away any possible saturation of responses.

### **3.4 Data Collection Method and Instruments**

All respondents were engaged in in-depth interviews. According to Rutakumwa et al. (2020), in-depth interviews enable a researcher to come up with different perspectives of a specific population regarding a specific topic. I administered semi-structured interviews to the children living on the streets and the social workers. The decision to use this type of interview was informed by the views of scholars (such as Adams, 2015; Belina, 2023; Jamshed, 2014; Magaldi & Berler, 2018) that semi-structured interviews involve preset open-ended questions that require follow-up queries. The semi-structured interviews are commonly used when the researcher is interested in developing an understanding of human experience (Bearman, 2019; Magaldi & Berler, 2018; Oxfam International, 2019). It supports the collection of thick and rich data (Bearman, 2019). In this study, I was interested in unravelling the thick experiences of the children living on the streets about the provisions of social workers and given the typifying feature of children living on the streets as part of the hard-to-reach populations, use of a semi-structured interview was handy. According to Belina (2023) and Bearman (2019), researchers using this method collect data only once. Data were collected from each respondent at once. The semi-structured interview also is ideal for making rich discoveries since it creates space for making topical trajectories during the conversation process.

The use of a semi-structured interview attracts utilization of an interview guide (Belina, 2023; Jamshed, 2014; Raworth et al., 2012). I used an interview guide on both categories of respondents. The interview guide was developed from the research questions and following the

prescriptions of Adeoye-Olatunde and Olenik (2021), the interview guide was never read to any respondents. Rather, it served as a reminder of key questions that I had to engage the respondents on. The interview guides used in the study contained open-ended questions with some follow-up probe questions that enabled me to dig deep and come up with rich data that helped me to provide answers to the main research questions of the study. The duration of interviews was 60 minutes per respondent. However, this could be relaxed to cover 90 minutes depending on the available engagement time. All the proceedings of the interviews were audiotaped using a voice recorder. Permission was sought from each respondent to let their voices be audio-recorded. My decision to record interviews dialogs was informed by Jamshed (2014) who argued that when researchers have administered interviews and then chose to take handwritten notes, the outcomes are unreliable since the stakes are high that some key points can be omitted. In this line of argument, Jamshed surmises that an audio-taped interview aids the generation of a verbatim transcript of the interview.

### **3.5 Data Quality control**

#### **3.5.1 Piloting and Pretesting the Interview Guides**

The interview guides used in this study were pretested in Entebbe Municipality in Wakiso District. According to Hurst et al. (2015), pretesting improves the quality of the interview questions and as well, helps in identifying biases hence easing the verification of the appropriateness of the interview guide. Wakiso District surrounds Kampala city. As a result, her urban centres such as Town Councils and Municipalities have some of the busy streets occupied by street children. Pretesting was necessary in this study to ensure that the interview guides met the objectives of the study (Kumar, 2018). Piloting or pretesting is essential in ensuring that the research instrument meets the aims and objectives of the study. The interviews were piloted on 2 street children, 1 social worker and municipal officer. A mini report of the findings from the pretest was shared with the subject matter experts. After it was ascertained that the questions were easy to follow by the respondents, actual data collection in Kampala city followed. The invaluable contribution of this phase is provided by Presser et al. (2004) who noted that pretests enable researchers to identify problems with the interview questions as well as in identifying any possible gaps in the entire flow of the interview questions.

### **3.5.2 Validity**

Validity is the truthfulness of the questions used in the interview guide to collect data (Kumar, 2018). The validity of the questions used in capturing data for this study were developed from the main research questions and this ensured that the data collected corresponded with the main research questions that the study sought to answer (Alshenqeeti, 2014). Further, to increase validity of the research findings, I used structured questions that were read as they were typed on the face of the interview guide (McLeod, 2023). However, where I ascertained that the interviewees never internalized the questions, I would paraphrase the questions. Equally, points of clarification were sought from time to time to ensure that quality data were collected (Alshenqeeti, 2014; McLeod, 2023).

### **3.5.3 Reliability**

This aspect was focusing on ensuring the consistency of the interview guide used. This was ensured through pretesting in Wakiso District. As Kumar (2018) professes, the interview guides should be reliable such that the findings generated from one study can be replicated in other study when the same interview guide is administered to respondents sharing more or less the same characteristics. In this study, the findings of the pretest were compared with findings on children living on the streets reported elsewhere in other environments where numbers of children living on the streets is also reportedly increasing over time.

### **3.5.4 Transferability**

This is concerned with how generalizable the findings of a study are in regard to other environments (Nowell et al., 2017). While a researcher cannot know or tell the environments that may transfer the findings, Nowell et al. (2017) argued that the researcher should endeavor to provide thick descriptions when reporting the findings. Thick descriptions are important because they provide a reference point on which those interested in transferring the findings to their own milieu can refer to (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Transferability of the findings of this study was ensured through providing thick descriptions about the study area and in presentation of the study findings in which both narratives and verbatim quotations were used.

### **3.5.5 Dependability**

Nowell et al. (2017) and Shenton (2004) proposed that researchers should ensure that the findings of their study are dependable. To achieve this goal, a logical, traceable and clearly documented research process or procedure followed should be relayed by the researcher (Lincoln & Guba, 1985; Nowell et al., 2017; Shenton, 2004). The credibility of the research process followed becomes a motivator to the readers to judge how dependable, the study's results are. In this study on children living on the streets of Kampala city, I provided a clear methodological roadmap that was followed in obtaining raw data and analyzing them to achieve the goals of the study as showcased in the next chapter.

### **3.5.6 Confirmability**

This was considered important in the study to rid the findings of subjectivities. Shenton (2004) notes that researcher should ensure that they employ strategies that can enhance the findings to be reflective of the lived experiences and idealities of the respondents rather than the whims of the researcher such as their characteristics and preferences. By doing so, Nowell et al. (2017) concede that the findings of the study and corresponding interpretations are based on the data obtained and is also a clear manifestation that transferability and dependability of the study findings has been achieved. One of the strategies adopted by the study as borrowed from Koch (1994) was the use of markers and these were reflected in the adopted theory, the methods of data collection and analysis and the analytical choices made to transform the emerging data into the reported findings.

## **3.6 Data Analysis**

As earlier indicated in Section 3.4 that audiotaping was done to capture all deliberations during interviews, the data analysis process began with downloading the interview audio clips. These were saved on a password-protected laptop. This was followed by transcribing the voices word by word. The analysis of transcripts began with a thorough review to iron out the typos and to make a follow up in case of any detected omissions. This was followed by developing a coding frame. The developed coding frame enabled me to categorise the emerging data so that the process of finding themes and patterns is eased. This decision followed recommendations of Rosen et al. (2023) and Groenland (2016) that coding frames enable one researcher to develop

themes and patterns from transcripts. In this study, a matrix table was developed in which the emerging data per question were sorted and written against the label of the selected respondent children living on the streets, social workers and politicians. The matrix table enabled me to draw conclusions about the emerging data, to provide answers to the research questions which the study sought to answer and consequently, to achieve the aim of the research. Rosen et al. (2023) accredit the use of matrix method in qualitative studies because it eases the coding and interpretation of the transcribed data. Besides, the matrix method provides room for capturing the different categories of responses to the research questions listed in the interview guide (Rosen et al., 2023).

After populating the matrix table with the data, cross-cutting issues were identified as themes. These themes became subheadings under which the case summaries from individual respondents are presented. Thematic data presentation and analysis was used. Maguire and Delahunt (2017) note that different approaches are used in thematic analyses. As a result of this variety, researchers using this method are at times lost between what thematic analysis entails and in detecting the borderline between thematic analysis and content analysis. To cater for this gap and report systematic findings, I adopted the 6-step approach of thematic analysis developed by Braun and Clarke (2006). The 6-step approach was selected because it provides a clear and usable framework for conducting comprehensive and systematic thematic analyses (Maguire & Delahunt, 2017). In step 1, I read and re-read the transcripts. This decision was undertaken to enable me to become familiar with the data *corpus*. During this familiarization, I noted down insightful information and wrote down any exciting information emerging from the transcribed data. This was followed by Step 2 where I generated codes in the matrix table. The intent was to ensure data reduction where the bulkiness of the transcribed data was reduced to short and meaningful data. This step involved synthesizing of every data in the transcripts and selecting out all that were relevant and capable of enabling to provide answers to the research questions.

In step 3, the codes were examined. This was done purposely to search for themes. The codes that were cross-cutting and fitted together were merged to form the themes. These fitting codes were those that carried similarities in relation to the specific research questions that informed this study. The successive step (step 4) entailed careful review of the themes. This involved modification and development of the preliminary themes that were identified during the

searching process in step 3. The data associated with each theme in the matrix was shaded in green colour. This was followed by reviewing the shaded case summaries to ensure all the fitting text is retained under each theme. In step 5, the themes were defined further. This was followed by developing sub-themes. The entire themes and sub-themes formed a theme map. The theme map was used to establish the interconnections between the themes and sub-themes. The last step, 6 involved reporting the results. Results reporting used narrative statements. These were supplemented with verbatim quotations. Verbatim quotations are popular literary devices in qualitative research studies (Parkin & Kimegrad, 2022) and help in illustrating the findings (Eldh et al., 2020).

### **3.7 Positionality of the researcher and ethical considerations**

In this study Ethical issues were considered from both Uganda where the study was conducted and Sweden where I am a student. According to Bryman (2016), ethical considerations need to be considered at all levels in social research especially when human beings are involved as participants. Protection of participants, informed consent, exploitation, privacy and age were considered throughout the study (Hammersley & Atkinson, 2007, UNCST, 2014). There were different layers of approval right from Gothenburg University that required me to adhere to a series of ethical procedures before the actual data collection began. I ensured that each step was keenly followed and observed right from obtaining a transmittal letter from Gothenburg University. This was important as it helped the researcher to minimize any biases from the study sites and the respective authorities. I ensured that ethical issues of both Uganda and Sweden are minimized. The study used several techniques to ensure the protection of children respondents as well as social workers and politicians. Also, efforts were made to ensure that the study findings are reported in a clear and transparent manner.

The main respondents in this study were children living on the streets. These are discriminated against by the society and are accorded stigmatizing labels. Therefore, their protection and safety ranked high on the agenda of data collection. Thus, given that they were engaged in providing opinions and perceptions about the provisions of the social workers dealing with them, I was so meticulous in ensuring that none of the social workers got to know about which particular children participated in the study as respondents. To do so, I visited the offices of the social workers and obtained the lists of the children living on the streets. I then drew out the names of

the children who met the inclusion criteria and proceeded to the streets where I met the children myself unaccompanied. As earlier mentioned, at the study sites, I was helped by the business unit management. This was intended to ensure that the children targeted for participation in the study are comfortable with me, given that I was strange to all of them. This helped to address the ethical dilemma of involving the social workers in locating the participant children as doing so, would be intimidating to the children and would thus mask the originality of the views and ideas that they had to share with me. Equally, the decision to use a seed in each division helped in addressing the ethical dilemma of locating each child myself and therefore, the recruitment by the seed was more appealing and never misconstrued or misinterpreted by the study participants. I did this after four days of obtaining the names such that the social workers do not follow me up in case, I chose to engage the children after visiting their offices for example, after visiting Makindye Division, I chose to interview children from Kawempe Division whose names I had gotten 4 days before. Thus, the social workers never surfaced at any sites from where I interviewed the children and neither could they point an accusing finger at any of the children since they could not single out any that had participated. This recruitment strategy for the child respondents helped to minimize the influence of the social workers, had they been present in and around the interview venues (sites). Therefore, it was not possible by the social workers to trace those who participated and those who didn't.

The interviews were organized in a safe environment where privacy was ensured. I used three venues. These were homes of natives, a school and a church. These interview venues were selected by the children respondents. As earlier mentioned, the children were very cautious when dealing with strange people and therefore, to make them feel at ease, I was quick to notify them that they were free with me to identify a venue where they felt they were more comfortable to have a discussion or sharing session from. In either interview venue, I made sure that the hosts were in the know of who I am. This involved presenting the transmittal letter from Gothenburg University as well as the assent letter from KCCA. One possible ethical dilemma was that the children would feel insecure while sharing their views with me at each of the venues. However, after sharing the transmittal letters, with the help of each child participant, I request to be given a more convenient place. The convenient place was decided upon by the child, given that they feel more secure and safe when they share views in a place or point that has a lot of privacy. This mitigated the dilemma and was a further mechanism of protecting the children from feeling

insecure during the discussions. I desisted from using office settings because the children had intimated to me that they would not feel safe being taken to office settings, since they had previously been roughed up by security and dehumanized after they had consented to participate in interviews. Besides the protocols above, a further level of protection and safety entailed a dialogue interview between me and every child that participated. I omitted the translators because I feared they would feed me with false results and compromise confidentiality. Therefore, given my decade stay in Kampala city and my reasonable command of *Luganda* dialect, I only dealt with children who were able to understand and speak *Luganda*. This provided extreme confidence to the children respondents that they were dealing with a person who would understand their situation.

This study dealt with children living on the streets. These are minors. Therefore, I observed the ethical principles of Swedish Universities as well as the Government of Uganda where researchers are only cleared by the Research Ethics Committee when their studies are set to engage children aged 15-17 years. Given that the children living on the streets are under nobody's guidance and or parents, I sought for permission from Kampala Capital City Authority (see Appendix D). Therefore, the children falling in the 15-17 age bracket qualified for this study. Only 15 children qualified to fall in that age range and had lived on the streets for more than 6 years and were fluent in *Luganda*. The rest falling in that age bracket were newcomers and therefore, these were excluded. Twelve (12) children accepted to participate. Three (3) shied away and I respected their No. One of the three gave a reason that I have a skin complexion that looks more of an office worker and so I could be laying grounds for landing him in trouble. I was delighted by those who accepted to participate. None of the consenting children respondents exited the interviews which to me, implies that the trafficked children living on the streets have been dehumanized for a long time and are yearning for opportunities that could let their voices be heard through a medium like me.

In reporting the findings, confidentiality of the respondents' information was maintained and their names were not written or captured anywhere. The personal identifiers of the respondent children and social workers were not included in the findings. Rather, pseudonyms and labels have been adopted. The pseudonyms used for social workers were *Bubaare*, *Namiyaga*, *Kitumbezi*, *Nangara* and *Muchahi*. Kumar (2018) notes that pseudonyms enable the respondents

to feel at ease when responding to interview questions. The pseudonyms were important because social workers are targets of dealers in child trafficking and therefore, inclusion of their personal identities such as real names would increase their vulnerability to the threats. For the participant children, the label used was GENERO. This was equally important because given the stream of assistance provided by the social workers, including their name would also compromise their innocence before social workers especially where they would speak negatively about individual social workers regarding the scope and extent of the services provided. The first 12 letters of the alphabet (A to L) were used to distinguish the responses provided by the respondent children. Kampala District is also a stronghold of opposition politicians. These were targeted by the study because they are watchdogs and critics of government programmes and they participate in deliberations of policies for the development of Kampala city. They are engaged in providing alternative positions of thought about how the government ought to address the socio-economic ills facing the population, the precarity of the children living on the streets inclusive. Despite this excellent role, they are also witch-hunted and must prefer anonymity on some issues that are likely to raise the ire of some of the incognito supporters profiting from trafficking in children. To protect their positions, I also used POLITIKI as a label and differentiated their responses by using letters A, B and C. In this case, before I started recording the proceedings of the interviews, I ensured that the label that I proposed to use in presenting the findings was shared with the interviewees. The same applied to the pseudonyms. This decision was phenomenal because the interviewees were very frank and produced real views and opinions after learning that their identities would be concealed. This accounts for why the respondents were able provide what they felt was important even beyond the questions and statements listed in the interview guides. To minimize the possibility of the respondents using derogatory and demeaning language during the process of interviews, I ensured that every respondent was informed that demeaning and derogatory descriptions were not supposed to be part and parcel of their perceptions and opinions. This standard was borrowed from Kumar (2018) who recommend that researchers opting to use interviews should set clear guidelines so that the entire process is not affected by the personal whims and subjective opinions of the interviewees.

Finally, I observed ethical standards of Gothenburg University about plagiarism. Annotations and paraphrasing of all the information in all chapters of this research was done. The scholars whose works were used in the study were cited in the reference section of the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings drawn by the study. The findings reported in this chapter were derived from the data that were collected using interviews. The Findings are presented thematically in line with the three objectives which the study sought to achieve. The findings capture the opinions and perceptions of the children living on the streets as major respondents in the perspective of social workers, political leaders and NGO leaders. Specifically, it highlights the service needs of trafficked children, discusses the perceptions and opinions of the children living on the streets about the approaches used by social workers in providing for their needs and presents the challenges faced by social workers in addressing the needs of trafficked children in Kampala. The findings are presented objective by objective. The findings are interpreted in the realm of the Needs Hierarchy Theory and Ecological Systems Theory that informed the study as discussed in Chapter One.

### 4.2 Service needs of trafficked children living on streets of Kampala city.

Research question one of the study, required answers about the service needs of trafficked children living on the street in Uganda. Below, is an analysis of the specific needs that were raised by the participant children, politicians, NGO leader and the social workers.

#### 4.2.1 The need for protection

Throughout the interviews, the children expressed that they are vulnerable to harm, given the nature of the conditions they live in on the streets. The most common harms mentioned by the children included physical, sexual and economic abuses as discussed below;

- a) **Protection from Physical harm:** The children living on the streets are vulnerable to physical abuse. The participant children narrated experiences of being tortured by the traffickers through beating. Besides the captors, it was also indicated that the children fought with their peers. The most vulnerable and victims of circumstance were light bodied. It was established that at times, some of the fights are life threatening leading to the victims sustaining grievous bodily harm that at times, require hospitalization. GENERO H showed me an injury on his arm. When I asked him how it came about, he said,

“This is a knife cut that I sustained through a fight with a group of boys. The cause of the brawl was the food that I had on me which they wanted to forcefully take away from me. When I slightly resisted, I was manhandled and ended up being stabbed by one of the irate boys. In my thinking, if I hesitated to surrender the food, they could have even taken away my life.”

Sustaining injuries is a life-threatening issue that worsens the vulnerability of the children living on the streets especially those who fend for their life by collecting metallic scraps from filthy points and those who go to municipal skips looking for food leftovers. In both cases, they are prone to bacterial infections because of open wounds. This scenario provides a vivid indicator of the highest level of insecurity among the trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala. As shown in the above cases, children living on the streets cope with the conditions and locate areas where they can meet their survival needs such as garbage and collection centres and municipal skips. By doing so, they are striving to adapt to the environment. This level of adaptation is underscored by Bronfenbrenner (1979) who noted that an individual scans through the environment in order to establish the facilitating conditions that can enable them to adapt. Since, this coping mechanism is the nearest means through which children living on the streets can adapt, it is important that protection services to these children. This finding was echoed by *Bubaare*, *Nangara* and *Kitumbezi* who revealed that trafficked children living on the streets like any other categories of street children in Kampala are vulnerable to physical abuse. Compared to the other categories of street children especially those that hail from the slums of Kampala and operate only during daytime, the trafficked children were more vulnerable since the streets serve as their homes. Therefore, they are vulnerable to abuse both during the day and nighttime. The submissions of the social workers were echoed by the NGO leader and POLITIKI 1 who also mentioned that physical and emotional abuse was so common along the streets of Kampala city targeting the resident children. However, differently, POLITIKI 3 revealed that while the children living on the streets had reported cases of physical abuse meted on them during day and nighttime, the gravity of physical abuse escalated during nighttime. POLITIKI 3 stressed that girls were more vulnerable to physical abuse at night compared to boys. Still, all the three politicians mentioned that physical abuse affected mostly the small and light-bodied boys compared to those with built bodies as the former cannot ably defend themselves in case of an attack compared to the latter.

b) **Protection from sexual abuse:** The study established that trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala have succumbed to several incidences of sexual abuse. The respondent children revealed that the cases were common with girls especially those aged between 14 and 17 years. During interviews, 7 of the 12 respondents mentioned that the captors promised them well paying domestic work in and around Kampala city. On reaching Kampala city, the captors moved the girls around several business premises ‘connecting’ them to any interested ‘buyer’ during daytime. It was established further that at night, the same girls are moved from one bar to the other. One of the respondent girl children confessed that on several occasions, she was ‘sold out’ to bar revelers. The political and NGO leaders provided supplementing evidence and mentioned that often, they have been notified about this social vice. However, it is fused in the cultural milieu of the communities and for this reason, they have failed to stump it out. The key message carried by this finding is that trafficking in children is not a protracted process because of the crevices in the moral and social fabric of the families of the children living on the streets. The failure to be provided with physiological needs as illustrated by Abraham Maslow and proponents of his theory and the perturbations in the rural setting microsystem creates favorable grounds for the traffickers in children to easily convince the children into traps and later shipping them to the urban centres. As well, there are deep crevices in the meso-system of Kampala city accounting for why the same approaches used by the traffickers of the children have continued to be used from time to time. The macro-system, believe has also contributed to this state of affairs and I highly believe that since KCCA has several structural, economic, social and security challenges to look into, the issue of human trafficking and burgeoning numbers of children living on the streets are yet to be looked into as matters of urgency and concern. This is a clear indicator that there is a lack of community and national controls that would have helped in the mitigation of trafficking in children and therefore, they must continue to be a necessary evil in Kampala city and other urban centres.

This finding implies that trafficked children in Kampala city will continue to be vulnerable to commercial sex leading to sexual exploitation. After the girl children have failed to be taken up for domestic or any other paid employment, they end up becoming residents on the streets

of Kampala city. Indeed, most of the respondent children (9) revealed that this is another context where the girl children have continued to become vulnerable and a prey of gullible men and boys around the city to the extent that, during daytime, the girl children are even sexually harassed by passers-by. Some girl respondents intimated that they have adopted coping mechanisms to minimize the scope of sexual abuse along the streets especially at night when they fall prey of night revelers in and around the city. For example, one of the girls said,

“ When I used to sleep on the verandah of the building near Calendar Guest House in Makindye Division, on several occasions, I was targeted by men ....to increase my safety, I identified a dustbin near the neighboring gas station which has two guards, one of them being a woman.....I chose to sleep there at night because I realized that the security guards at the gas station and more especially the woman would provide me with support in case any of the marauding revelers attempted to rape me” (GENERO M, Makindye Division, 13 March 2023).

On the basis of such a precarious situation, I highly believe that the girl children living on the streets have chosen the best possible coping mechanism of choosing zones that offer better protection than the rest of the street's environment. This behavior reflects those prescriptions made by Bronfenbrenner (1976) in which he argues that the environment in which an individual lives and interacts with involves several transactions in which the individual modifies the environment and is as well, modified by the environment. The girls living on the streets have been modified by the prevalent insecurity. To cope with this situation, the children living on the streets told me that the girls 'relocate' to safer places which to me, is a vindication of adaptation where when one has failed to interact with the environment seamlessly, they can relocate to a new environment where they feel they are better and safer.

This finding equally implies that trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city have psychosocial needs that are supposed to be catered for. Supplementary evidence of sexual exploitation was equally raised by the social workers who indicated that for quite a long period of time, the issue of involuntary participation in commercial sex has been reported on many occasions by the trafficked girls especially when they have been recruited from the villages. In expressing the magnitude of the act, one of the social workers had this to say,

“For the three years, all the girls that I have handled aged 10 years and above confessed to have engaged in unwanted sex with strange men whom they met in leisure centres such as bars....many of them intimated to me that they had unprotected sex [having been coerced by their captors to do].....this accounts for why most girls aged between 12 and 17 are teenage mothers.....like any lactating mothers, the girls have maternal health and sexual health needs that must be met....it is for this reason that whenever there is a health camp in and around Kampala city where I have been involved, I always provide leads to the teenage mothers to approach me from these venues so that they can benefit from free medical services provided.”  
(*Nyamiyaga*, Central Division, Kampala City 12 March 2023).

The cross-cutting voice from most of the respondent girls living on the streets was that much as they are aware of the negative effects of engaging in premarital sex, sometimes, the urge to do so is influenced by the need to survive and in this case, to get some money to buy food and also cater for their young siblings living on the streets. This coping mechanism is highlighted by Abraham Maslow who theorized that in case an individual fails to meet the physiological needs, then they can hardly realise the higher order needs such as social security and self-esteem. This scenario is a clear manifestation of negative transactions in the environment as argued by Bronfenbrenner (1979) that the environment in which the individual lives dictate that kind of interactions that must take place. The girl children living on the streets of Kampala city have been influenced by the environment to devise this coping strategy and therefore, the need to protect them from sexual exploitation is critical.

c) **Protection from economic exploitation.** All the respondent trafficked children revealed that on several occasions, they engage in odd jobs with meagre pay. Most of the children attested to have engaged in mundane jobs such as collecting plastics and scrap metals, manual car washing and offloading cargo from long vehicles, among others. Some of the activities are dangerous to the health of the children. For example, when the body of the children is pierced by sharp metals while collecting scrap such as sharp metals, the stakes are high that the children can contract tetanus. Also, economic activities such as offloading of goods from long vehicles and more especially, agricultural produce or other heavy cargo has a damaging effect on the health of the children and can cause lifetime body damage. This was further stressed by POLITIKI 2 who indicated that these street children are always exploited by not only traffickers but also business community who use them as a source of cheap labor. This situation is also cursory to the need for physical protection services for children living on streets of Kampala and this ought to be

provided by the social workers.

#### **4.2.2 Health care**

This study established that like any other human being, the trafficked children living on the streets, require healthcare services. This need is even greater compared to other children living in homes because of the environmental hazards such as cold conditions, dusty environment, debilitating work and sexual exploitation mentioned earlier in the preceding section. The respondent children revealed that most of their colleagues have been plagued by chronic diseases such as pneumonia due to coldness, tuberculosis from dust and polluted environment, HIV and STIs due to sexual abuse, body injuries sustained during fighting, beating by captors and security forces and infectious diseases sustained from body cuts caused by handling sharp metals without any protective gear.

The respondent children are compelled to brave these health challenges because in the public healthcare providing institutions in and around Kampala, they cannot access health services because they do not have National Identification Cards (they have never been registered because they are below 18 years to qualify for National IDs). For other children, accessing services is possible using the parent's or guardian's National IDs. This requirement has compelled the children to adopt coping strategies to enable them access health services from public institutions whenever they fall sick. One of the respondents shared the following coping strategy.

“Whenever I am unwell, I clean up and go to the Kisenyi health centre IV. When I reach there, I am forced to identify any old person I find there and request them to help me and get treatment. I lie to them that I stay with my grandmother who does not have a national ID...I then change names because every other day when I visit the health centre, I find new members as they are many and working in shifts. My fellow children fear visiting such institutions as the nurses and other medics ask very many questions especially when one goes unaccompanied by any adult. They therefore chose to brave the sickness and wait for it to heal naturally.” (GENERO B, Kampala Central, on 12/03/2023)

In my opinion, the decision to refrain from visiting the public health institutions in Kampala city is an indication that most trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala have unmet healthcare needs. As indicated in the verbatim quote above, it requires the child a lot of thinking before he/she can visit the healthcare institutions and use their social capital in building rapport

with the strangers that they find at the premises. Braving sickness has the potential of affecting other children especially when the disease is highly infectious and easily transmittable from one person to the other. As practitioner with experience of how public health institutions dispense their services, I wholesomely agree that unaccompanied children can barely access healthcare services because they have no guardians and parents on the streets to run to. For fear of being asked several questions by the healthcare service providers, the children have to choose to forego seeking medical advice because they lack national identity cards which highlights how the meso- and macro-systems as espoused by Bronfenbrenner (1979) are very unresponsive to the plight of the children living on the streets. However, despite this assertion, credit goes to the children living on the streets who have explored all the available opportunities to meet this critical need by forging social relations with the respective people who have helped them to access healthcare services. Abraham Maslow highlighted health as a physiological need that must be met if one is to live and realise the successive human needs. On the same tone, the establishment of the beneficial relationships cited above is a clear reflection of how a person works out ways and means of ensuring that they can ably fit in their immediate environment. Bronfenbrenner theorized that the microsystem is very important for survival of a person in the environment because it opens way to successfully navigate through life in the successive environmental systems. To shed more light, the ability of the children living on the streets to successfully establish relationships and access healthcare services is a clear way of how important, relating with the family members and the immediate neighbours is vital for adapting to the environment.

#### **4.2.3 Emergency/ temporary Shelter**

Trafficked children living in Kampala have several places they call ‘homes’. The respondent children revealed that they slept on verandahs of commercial buildings in Kampala city. However, some children also revealed that at times, they slept at bars, near gas stations, in taxi parks and bridges connecting shopping malls and busy arcades. In worst case scenarios, the respondent children revealed that some of their colleagues at times, slept in manholes, drainage channels (especially during the dry seasons) as well as in abandoned sewer pipes that have been replaced with new sewer lines.

In relation to the above, the situation with other critical infrastructure was found to be really challenging. The children did not have appropriate areas for a bath or long calls. One of the

participants had this to say “When I want to bathe, I walk to Ggaba landing site on Lake Victoria. Ggaba landing site is located about 4 kilometers from the main city centre and therefore, the concerned children must walk. But some of the children bathe in drainage channels and hand dug wells in the slums of Kampala especially those who find it difficult to walk the said distance.” (GENERO B, Kampala Central, 15 March 2023). The participants noted that these places are unsafe and at times, have expose them to harassment by community members and law enforcers, who treat them as criminals. Some of the respondent children revealed that they have attempted to escape from street life. However, because of lack of safe places to go to, they choose to stay on the streets. The trafficked children in Kampala city therefore have a need for emergency or temporary shelter where they can be accommodated. This would enable them to meet other needs such as bathing, which is barely done at present unless they have walked to Ggaba landing site or located a hand-dug well or any other open water source in the vicinity of the city centre. I observed that majority of the respondent had developed skin problems, with most of the children having black spotted skin which is a clear manifestation of fungal and bacterial infections that could have arisen either due to limited bathing or because of bathing with contaminated water.

This finding about need for a home is situated in the theoretical dispositions of both Abraham Maslow and Bronfenbrenner. A home in this context is the family which Maslow lists as part of the physiological needs that a human being is entitled to, if they are to live a happy and eliciting life. In relation, Bronfenbrenner (1979) espouses that the micro-system (*sic* family) is the immediate environment for children from where attachment is ensured and from where the interactions that will buttress later life patterns are based. Therefore, when a child misses a stable home setting, they can hardly succeed in interacting with the environment later in life. For this reason, this finding makes it crystal clear that resettlement is imperative since the children living on the streets must have a safe and stable place that they can call a home. The home would serve as an ecological unit from where successful future adaptations to the environment can hinge. Thus, temporary shelter is high on the needs list of many children living on the streets.

#### **4.2.4 The need for psychosocial support**

On the streets of Kampala city, trafficked children like the rest of the street children are objects of public ridicule. This kind of emotional abuse leads to emotional instability which affects the psychological well-being of the children. The respondent children revealed that they are called

several names and given labels that are demeaning. The universal belief that I realized from labelling is that children living on the streets were not happy with it since it places them in vulnerable situation and as a result, the children feel useless and worthless which has resulted in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). I confirmed this on the days I interviewed the children. On two occasions, the children that I interviewed from a church and school setting respectively were called upon by their fellow children after finishing the interviews. I heard the children respond to the calls by saying ‘let me hope you are not calling me to mix with “people” who devalue us and consider us as useless people’. The gravity of this challenge was revealed by GENERO F who, while sobbing, said,

“For the last six years that I have stayed along the streets of Kampala, I have been molested and ridiculed several times that I cannot even count.... some people call me a bastard, a murderer, and a thief. None of these labels is a true account of myself, I have never been part of this and have no hopes of becoming a thief or murderer....I cannot even believe that I am a bastard because I know my village and both my mother and father are alive....what would then make me a bastard? I would have gone back to reconnect with my family...however, the biggest challenge is that I cannot tell in which district, my family is located and how I would get there.... I just found myself entangled in this circumstance.”

As a social worker, this situation was very touching that I could not carry on with interview before I comforted GENERO F. I provided some casual counseling and was successful in providing the needed comfort which enabled me to bring him respondent back to their normal state. This observation provides a reflective scenario that labelling was a stigmatizing act by the communities which in my opinion is indicative of how difficult the resident children on the streets of Kampala find support from the neighborhoods. I realized that security was high on the needs of the children living on the streets which correlated with the theoretical tenets of Abraham Maslow that safety needs are important in a person’s life. Maslow underscored the credibility of safety by highlighting that safety needs are not only inherent in man but are also instinctual to the extent that man will always crave for safety and run away from any situation that is deemed life-threatening. Therefore, when the children living on the streets feel insecure, they will tend to isolate themselves from other people which limits their ability to meet other human needs. The finding is also mirrored in the works of Bronfenbrenner (1979) who noted that the neighborhood provides a potential environment for enhancing one’s adjustment and adaptation. In the case of

Kampala city and its environs, the environment provided by the community is not enabling to the children living on the streets and by doing so, the children face a lot of emotional challenges that require redress.

This is a precarious situation that manifests lack of psychosocial services such as counselling. Left unaddressed, it has the potential of affecting the mindset of the trafficked children and can compel them to adopt negative coping behaviors such as drug and substance abuse, all of which post negative results to the livelihoods of the child.

#### **4.2.5 The need for professional resettlement**

As noted in the preceding sections, most of the participant children expressed the desire to reconnect with their parents and guardians. Much as this was a felt need, there are possible limitations that may not enable the children to return home. Firstly, some were trafficked when they were so young and have grown on the streets. As a result, because of guilt and shame, they find it impossible to return home fearing to be tormented and ridiculed by the communities. Secondly, most of the respondent children were not sure of their respective ancestral homes and found it difficult to locate their native homelands in Uganda. Despite these barriers, the respondent children confessed that the life on the streets was equally tormenting and required a redress that would see them also have an attachment that would be called as their home.

The need for this permanent residence equally implies that trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala required professional services for supporting their resettlement. Having undergone professional rehabilitation by social workers and psychologists, the changed mindsets would qualify the children to be accepted back home in case they managed to identify their ancestral homes. The opinion of the respondent children was echoed by the social workers who equally opined that as long as, the children decide to go back home, it is important that they are first rehabilitated. This therefore raises the need for rehabilitation centres where the children can be settled as they are counselled by professionals. In light of this need, *Muchahi* had this to say;

“Although it cannot totally be denied that there ‘bad apples’ among street children as is the case with any other community, the public opinion about the personality of street children is overly negative....it should be remembered that this opinion spreads to the rural communities where the trafficked children are drawn from. Thus, the community where the street children [for the case of those who can ably remember their home areas] has a biased

opinion about the street children and may inadvertently label them as ‘returnee hardcore criminals who deserve to be covertly and overtly discriminated because they have nothing good to bring back to their communities ...Such an ill-belief underlines critical need for rehabilitation homes where rigorous rehabilitation services are rendered so that the personalities of the street children can be improved.’(Muchahi, Ttula Road, Kawempe Division, 14 March 2023).

The social workers reiterated that without this support, the children that manage to make it home become objects of discrimination. Consequently, this kind of mishandling becomes a trigger for returning to street life, leading to the development of a vicious cycle of vulnerability.

Given the situation of family setting in Uganda as is the case elsewhere where children have to live with parents, relatives and caretaker guardians, victims of street life need to be rehabilitated before they can integrate with their families. In the same manner families with children on streets need to be prepared to have their children back and provide parental care and support. This finding is rooted in the ecological systems theory that informed this study. Largely, the family and community systems are very important in enabling the children to adjust to life situations. Therefore, when social workers chose to work out any arrangements to enable the children living on the streets to return home, they will succeed when they have first addressed the odd conditions in the micro- and meso-systems that served as triggers for the children to be targeted and shipped to Kampala city by the traffickers.

#### **4.2.6 Feeding**

Borrowing insights from the needs-hierarchy theory, food is one of the indispensable physiological needs. The trafficked children must access food to sustain their life. As noted earlier, the trafficked street children are more vulnerable compared to non-resident street children. Eleven (11) respondent children revealed that they do not recall a day when they ate three meals. As mentioned earlier, most trafficked street children eke a living by participating in odd jobs such as collecting plastic bottles and scrap metals. This kind of work is not sustainable as most of the participating children revealed that their ‘bosses’ are willing to pay them little money after they have hit the target. One of the children had this to say;

“Only when I make 40 kilograms of scrap a day, I get 1000 for food at the end of the day, sometimes I have to steal from others and that causes bad fights. This kind of work is not worth it because on many occasions, the

buyers of scrap exploit the situation that we live in and set for us targets that are unattainable....for example, pegging UGX 10.0000 to a tone of empty water plastic bottles is achievable after a week or more....now imagine working from Monday to Sunday to meet this target and yet feed is a daily need! This is so tempting to the extent that some of my friends chose to engage in pickpocketing to 'make' the ends meet. The old adage goes that an empty stomach does not have ears, while also, another adage says that an empty sack cannot stand.” (GENERO C)

The horrible and hopeless living conditions are drivers for undesirable behaviors such as stealing and pick pocketing. In relation to the above, the respondent children revealed that some of the available work such as offloading cargo tracks is afforded by athlete-bodied street children. As a result, light-bodied boys and children are left without any means of survival. GENERO H supplemented and said that still, the available work is gender segregative as some of the survival pathways cannot be exploited by girls. This leaves them with few options to exploit survival.

On the days of interviews, I observed young children of about 5 to 7 years yawning endlessly and this might be related to failure to get food. Many of the children had low weight compared to their age and brownish hair, these are symptoms of malnutrition. Therefore, feeding is a prime need for all the street children that must be met. Failure to do so according to GENERO A and GENERO H would make the children more vulnerable, leading to social dissatisfaction. This finding is reflective of how important, the meeting of physiological needs is according to Abraham Maslow. In his pyramid, physiological needs that include food, shelter, security education and clothing and health are being unmet by street children. This shows a right connection between the study findings and ecological systems theory where Bronfenbrenner (1979) in describing what goes around in the micro-system, also argues that the first line of interaction and attachment of the child is with the mother who is a source of food through breast feeding (during neonatal and early infancy stages) and in later infancy where the child's mother continues to play the role of feeding the child. This description provides a basis to reason that when children have not managed to feed, they cannot transition well in their interactions with the meso-and macro-systems. Therefore, when the feeding needs of the children living on the streets are, it paves way for full adjustment and mutual interactions between the children and their immediate social and physical environments as prescribed by ecological systems theory.

### **4.3 Perceptions about the approaches used by social workers in addressing the needs of trafficked children.**

Objective Two (2) assessed the approaches commonly used by social workers in Kampala city to address the needs of trafficked children that were established in the preceding section and how these were perceived by children living on the streets. Responses from interviews are discussed in the following sections;

#### **4.3.1 Approaches by level of intervention**

##### **a) Individual and group intervention**

Social workers in Kampala city use individual based interventions or group-based interventions depending on the circumstances at hand. Responses from most children participants indicated that the environmental conditions in which street children live trigger them to engage in substance abuse. The social workers mentioned that street children in Kampala are an ‘asset’ to drug dealers as they work as agents from whom the narcotics such as opium and *mirra* are distributed to the users. As a result, they are vulnerable to conflicting with security officers especially Uganda Police and Kampala Capital City Authority Law Enforcement Officers. Abuse of drugs has a degenerating effect on human life. Therefore, once the trafficked children confess to the social workers that they engage in drug deals, the approach used to provide psychosocial service is individual member counselling.

*Nyamiyaga* revealed that she uses this approach regularly to handle issues that are associated with drug dealing by the street children. On the other hand, *Kitumbezi* and *Nangara* also used individual approach to provide psychosocial therapy to teenage girls who became victims of sexual exploitation. The social workers credited this approach as very influential in handling and addressing cases that require a lot of confidentiality. This finding is a clear testimony of what was observed while interviewing the children. Most of the children confessed that they have faced some heart wrenching challenges. However, they confided in the social workers and the situations were handled. GENERO H summarized the above submission in the following words

“...I was sexually molested some three years ago when I had been sweet-talked by a passer-by to carry for them part of the luggage to Namayiba Bus Park. Unsuspecting of any ulterior motive I accepted and helped to carry the luggage for money...it was in the wee hours of the morning and when

we reached a certain dark corner, the man pounced on me and raped me...he gave UGX 10,000 and left me at the very point...fearing to be raped by other men, I hid in a trench and crawled slowly by slowly the morning back to the street...with much anguish, I bought a battery cell for a watch and wanted to swallow it and die....when *Kitumbezi* was passing by, she looked at me and realized that I was not in my usual moods...she took me to her office and engaged me in casual but very friendly talk...I found myself opening up because I felt at home....I went to her office for three consecutive days and finally, I dropped the idea of poisoning myself....”

In agreement with the above views, GENERO A said;

“I was told that this was a personality problem of temper tantrums... I became receptive to the messages that were shared by *Nyamiyaga* and *Bubaare* and more so on how I can always use avoid-avoid approach such that I minimize the possibility of developing a grudge and fighting my fellows....I am so grateful that this counselling changed by approach towards life and has made me a better conflict mediator....sometimes, my fellow children are dumbfound whenever they find me mediating in a conflictual situation.....all this was instilled in me through the one-on-one counselling sessions by my uncle (*Nyamiyaga* ) and aunt (*Bubaare*).”

Besides the individual approach, the social workers equally revealed that sometimes, there are general issues that are handled through group therapy. They mentioned the example of esteem building and life skills training sessions. The use of group therapy is a new development that was brought on board after the social workers teamed up with clinical and social psychologists either working with their employing organization or through organized association meetings that integrated professionals from institutions across the city. The social workers revealed that the network effect has exposed them to the numerous advantages of this type of therapy such as cost effectiveness and dissemination of universal information that benefits several trafficked children at the same time. The newness of group therapy is attributed to the influence of networking between social workers and psychologists which gave birth to the need for provision of esteem building and life skills training that began in 2022. To express the invaluable role that group therapy is playing, *Muchahi* had this to say

“I am very happy to inform you that the group therapy approach has done wonders and miracles in the last one year...most of the trafficked children try all means possible to ensure that they bathe..... last month but one, we had visitors from the Netherlands who were cleared by the concerned line ministries to meet and interact with the street children, I was happy to hear some who are able to speak some casual English asking the Dutch visitors that the next time

they are to come back, they should buy for them toothbrush and tooth paste....asked as to why they requested to be supported with these materials, one of the boys said.....we are living in hygiene poverty but if chances can come knocking, we might get support and improve on our oral hygiene....you and fellow workers have been on our case that we should treasure hygiene... “  
(Nakawa Market, 23 March 2023).

The above findings to me underline the importance of both individual and group therapies and serve to inform the stakeholders that scanning the circumstances under which a child living on the streets have ended up with a social problem is very important since either therapy is a master key to unlock all problem situations. Based on the above submissions, it is imperative to note that children living on the streets accord high regard to the individual and group therapies that are applied by the social workers in Kampala city. The tailoring of the interventions to the prevailing situation provides an implication that children living on the streets have diverse service needs that ought to be met by the social workers if their living conditions are to improve.

#### **b) Community intervention**

Much as the trafficked children are residents on the streets of Kampala, they equally have some affiliations in the neighboring communities. The community approach therefore is relevant in addressing the needs of the trafficked children. On a negative note, the study established that some community members, especially school children use demeaning labels which instigate hostility from the trafficked children leading to conflicts. The same communities are hosts to some of the child traffickers while some homesteads are used by the traffickers as stop overs. *Bubaare, Nyamiyaga* and *Nangara* revealed that the engagement and involvement of the communities is a desirable approach in meeting the needs of the trafficked children because some of referrals to local authorities (for redress of complaints and or grudges) and health centres (for those who brave the unending questioning by the health workers) are made by community members in and around Kampala city. The viability of this approach was further appraised by *Nyamiyaga* as follows;

“ Trafficked children living on the streets are not stationed permanently there all the time, there are some who have established casual relations with the communities in and around Kampala especially those who normally engage them in paid work from time to time....so simply to say, community members have a role to play in the protection of the trafficked children living on the streets and can become a conduit through which any efforts to

convince the children to go back to their ancestral homes can best be achieved..” (17 March 2023. Kawempe Division)

*Bubaare* appraised the contribution that this approach has so far made regarding provision of services to the trafficked children living on the streets. Firstly, the communities provide an alluring environment for the social workers to meet the street children by among others providing them with critical information regarding the health and social life of the street children. Secondly, some of the philanthropic community members sometimes support the social workers with refreshments, especially on the days when the social workers have organized group counselling and life skilling sessions. To this effect therefore, community approach becomes eminent as the arising synergy from the combined efforts simplifies the activities of the social workers. The submissions of *Bubaare* and *Nyamiyaga* were confirmed by the NGO leader who revealed that social workers in Kampala city have exhibited the highest level of selfless services by among others sharing their roadmap activities with the community development institutions such as community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and engaging them from time to time in refining and enriching the interventions that are implemented on children living on the streets. The NGO leader conceded that the synergy arising from combined efforts have not only increased on the social well-being of the children living on the streets but has also informed their community mobilization and empowerment programmes that are aiming at minimizing the magnitude of human trafficking and its corresponding impact on socio-economic development of Kampala city. Confirmatory evidence of this synergy was raised by GENERO H, GENERO A and GENERO E who revealed that even organizations whose primary focus is not supporting children living on the streets have been involved in rendering services by working hand in hand with the social workers. By implication therefore, this finding means that the children living on the streets perceived this intervention as critically important for their socio-economic empowerment.

This finding helps to appraise how important the meso-system is to the life of children. This accords credit to the social workers as part of the microsystem and how they can lay strategies that are capable of circumventing the difficulties that the children living on the streets would encounter when interacting with the meso-system. The choice of the social workers to serve as a ladder or steppingstone for the children to access services from the organizations in the meso-system provides further proof that the ecosystems in the environment where the street children

live are nested concentric circles that are not ordered or ranked in light of their importance. It then reminds social workers that embracing the synergies between the micro-and meso-systems is very important in any efforts that they make to improve the welfare of vulnerable children as well as promoting and protecting their human rights.

#### **d) National intervention approach**

Social worker respondents revealed that besides working hand in hand with the communities, they have also engaged the respective help desks at public institutions especially Ministries and Departments. All the social workers revealed that they have been engaged by the Ministries especially Labour, Gender and Social Development (MoLGSD) and Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) on fact finding missions especially those related to advocacy, policy development and legislations on trafficking in children and elimination of violence against the vulnerable and marginalized children in Uganda. Using this window, the social workers revealed that they have been able to provide suggestions and plausible interventions that ought to be supported by the said ministries if the vice of trafficking in children is to be minimized in Uganda. Equally, the same connection has afforded them an opportunity to lobby for support to their work which has increased on their degree of interface with the children living on the streets.

The study found that interventions such as advocacy, policy development and legislation of laws on child trafficking, and violence against children living on the streets of Kampala have not been accorded due attention at City Council level. POLITIKI 3 revealed that Kampala Capital City Authority is pre-occupied by several challenges such as poor drainage, service failures such as brown lights, water supply outages, decomposing solid waste with swarms of blue houseflies, the large informal economy that makes collection of dues and property rates complicated, long hours of gridlock and a large population of hawkers and street vendors. As a result, most legislations in the last decade have largely focused on correcting and rectifying the above challenges. By implication therefore, less attention has been paid to tackling human trafficking as the commonest factor leading to prevalence of children along the streets of Kampala city. This neglect has translated into swelling numbers of children living on the streets which the POLITIKI 2 addressed as postponement of a problem because children living on the streets are part of the reasons why Kampala streets are messed up with polythene bags and other waste materials. The absence of legislations on human trafficking was summarized by the POLITIKI 1

in the following words “Without comprehensive and clear policies and laws, the traffickers will always exploit the loopholes to beat the legal system for example by claiming to be benefactors who are aiming at providing child fostering services, yet they are not.” This submission by the political leader is a wake-up call to the policymakers that human trafficking is a social vice that needs to be checked lest the streets of all cities in Uganda will be occupied by resident street children. Unless efforts are made to differentiate the proposals submitted by the social workers as indicated in the preceding sections, the problem of human trafficking will increase manifold, consequently hampering the plans of ensuring a high level of sanity in the cities. Therefore, in the light of ecological systems theory, the macro-system as showcased by Bronfenbrenner (1979) is very important in addressing the proneness of vulnerable people to exploitation and is critically important if a person is to ably adjust to the social and physical environment.

#### **4.3.2 Approaches by nature of activity**

Three types of interventions are implemented by social workers to provide needs of trafficked children living on the streets. These are discussed below;

##### **a) Prevention approach**

This approach has three major dimensions: awareness creation, community mobilization; and livelihood and empowerment. All the social workers who participated in the study revealed that the prevention approach formed the most critical and important approach with potential of mitigating the risks and uncertainties associated with staying on the streets. The below discussion provides the case and context specific interventions implemented by the social workers under the prevention approach;

##### **i) Awareness creation**

Results from interviews with social workers showed that awareness creation is a preventive strategy that provides requisite information to the children and the entire communities about the nature, scope and manifestations of trafficking in children in Uganda. *Muchahi* and *Kitumbezi* revealed that they have played an active role in this area by serving as talk show participants on Frequency Modulation (FM) Radio Stations and community radios in and around Kampala. They mentioned case examples of Radio Akaboozi (87.9 FM), Radio Simba (FM 97.3 FM) and Pearl FM (107.9 FM) all operating in Kampala City as well as Tiger FM Community Radio in

Nabweru Town Council (102.5 FM) Maama FM Community Radio (101.7 FM) in Wakiso District and Kampala City respectively.

In relation to that, *Nyamiyaga* and *Nangara* revealed that they have been hosted by television media houses especially those which televise community-based programmes in vernacular. *Nyamiyaga* and *Nangara* cited BBS *telefayina*, Bukedde I TV, NBS television and NYCE TV as the most houses that have hosted their programmes about trafficking in children and its aftermath. To arouse the sympathy of the viewers as well as send signals to unsuspecting children who are vulnerable to trafficking, *Nyamiyaga* said that they normally make arrangements and invite a former victim of trafficking who at the same time, were street children but have now resettled and integrated in the community. *Nyamiyaga* credited the impact of this strategy as follows;

“... the old adage goes that prevention is better than cure.....and so is another that runs. A stitch in time saves nine...we have been privileged by this opportunity afforded to us by the media houses from where we have shared tips on how the children can be alert to avoid falling in the traps of the traffickers...on the same airwaves, we have been able to share our social perspectives regarding the invaluable roles that the community have to play in mitigating trafficking in children similar to the neighborhood approach that has been used by the Uganda Police in crime prevention.....by the way, I am very happy to inform you that the voices of former street children that we have been hosted with on the programs especially those on the television have changed the perspectives of the communities about trafficked children living on the streets.....one of the indicators is the willingness of the community members to become ‘guardians’ of the sick trafficked children living on the streets so that they can access healthcare services from government health centres in and around Kampala city..”

One other channel through awareness creation is the use of drama shows. *Muchahi* and *Kitumbezi* revealed that two sites have been used for hosting drama shows about trafficking in children in Uganda. These are schools and busy community lifeline activity centres. *Nyamiyaga* amplified the submissions of *Muchahi* and *Kitumbezi* by citing the key reasons for using schools and busy lifeline centres. She noted that such drama shows in schools have an eliciting impact on the emotions and memory of the children as victims of trafficking and as defenders of the rights of the children at a future date.

The opportunity of using schools as revealed by *Muchahi* was benchmarked on several other

developments in Uganda that have been communicated to the children through drama shows such as prevention of teenage pregnancy, Dangers of bad play, Dangers of playing with life threatening objects such as sharp objects and electric wires by Ensingaanto Foundation, and Me and My Environment Project that holds drama shows about the invaluable benefits of conserving our environment by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in joint partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). The prime importance of using schools as a channel of awareness creation about trafficking in children was summed up by *Bubaare* as an innovative way of disseminating information that presents potentials of raising informed children who will speak against trafficking in children in the school environment and their communities while also increasing on its publicity through debates, children's talk shows and in the media such as newspapers especially New Vision, *Bukedde* and Monitor which normally provide spaces for children's stories and burning social issues once a week.

The lifelines mentioned by the social workers that have equally been used for staging drama shows are End of the Week Market Days in and around Kampala city. The choice of these sites, according to *Muchahi* and *Bubaare* for drama shows is influenced by attendance of hundreds and even thousands of people that are attracted to these centres for both leisure and business motives. *Muchahi* revealed that much as the space is usually a point of concern, their programmes have always attracted the attention of the local authorities in the areas including Uganda Police. As a result, they are normally allocated some space on the roadside where they stage drama shows. The community policing desk of the respective places normally participate in ensuring that there is order and safety of the social workers and the drama crew. The children consented that they had benefited from this community approach. GENERO D said that negative labels have slightly reduced after staging of drama shows in the communities in and around Kampala city. As well, GENERO B and F were appreciative of the drama shows and more so about their possibility of creating awareness about internal child trafficking and the preventive measure that could be undertaken to mitigate the magnitude of the problem.

#### **i) Community mobilization**

The social workers revealed that the community mobilization strategy is a little different from awareness creation. *Bubaare* and *Kitumbezi* revealed that this was a transitioning approach that followed awareness creation. The choice of this strategy builds on the success stories that have

been registered by Uganda Police through its ‘neighborhood approach’ which runs on the slogan ‘Security starts with you’. Under this approach, the social workers revealed that they use community structures such as Local Council offices, churches as well as seeking support from influential people such as senior citizens and opinion leaders. *Muchahi* and *Nangara* cited these entities as first line responders to any community problems and therefore best allies to partner within any activities that are targeting to incorporate and integrate the community members in any social programme. *Nangara* further stressed the importance of this approach in the following words;

“ Trafficking in children is a community social vice which is carried out by the members of communities or even in alliance with community members by dealers who reside outside Kampala city...some of the affordances of the community to the traffickers is space where they can keep the children for some time before they fail to find placements for them for domestic work...these children find it unbearable to be caged in such places and chose to run to the streets...in relative and absolute terms, the children who run to the streets end up becoming a thorn in the neck to most community members through pick pocketing, littering streets, robbery and many others ills committed by children living on the streets...To me, community members are the first line advocates against trafficking in children and therefore, they constitute the best allies to engage in our efforts to see an end to the escalating magnitude of trafficking in children and surging numbers of children living on the streets..”

*Kitumbezi* and *Nangara* revealed that the communities have worked hand in hand with them to ensure that some protection is accorded to the trafficked children and especially those living on the streets of Kampala City. *Nangara* further emphasized that the community members not only support their endeavors to ensure that children livings on the streets are protected from harm and exploitation but also provide leads to identifying areas suspected hideouts for trafficked children and how best the rackets of the dealers can be disbanded by the law enforcement officers. *Nangara* credited this whistleblowing initiative and confessed that as long as they continue to work hand in hand with the communities, the magnitude of trafficking in children will be lessened. This submission was replicated in the interview with GENERO A who revealed that the social workers in the area have been a major force to reckon with especially basing on the efforts that they have taken to work hand-in-hand with the communities to disband the traffickers who have for long used bases in the outskirts of the city to ship children from many parts of Uganda and keep them there for even months. It is therefore imperative to infer that the linkages between

the ecosystems in which an individual lives and interacts and more so, the meso-system ease the work of social workers in protecting and empowering the vulnerable children. The synergies are important because they lay a ground on which the interventions of the social workers can anchor to implement their activities.

## **ii) Livelihood and Empowerment projects**

Trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city have both social, economic and physiological needs now and must meet others in the future when they have grown into adults. One of the factors limiting their ability to live settled and sustainable life after they have been reintegrated in the communities is the lack of basic knowledge and skills, given the fact that they have been left out of the educational system of Uganda. As a compensatory measure, this study established that social workers were playing a steward role by ensuring that children living on streets can be equipped with tradable skills that can be exploited to meet social and economic needs. However, compared to other strategies, the livelihoods and tradable skilling approach has not been comprehensive enough to accommodate all qualifying street children because of the individual differences and consequently, differing preferences.

Of the five social workers who participated in the study, only one (*Bubaare*) worked with an organization that has a livelihoods and vocational skilling wing exclusively targeting vulnerable and marginalised children including street children. The grand objective of this approach as recounted by *Bubaare* is

“..the hand to mouth interventions that most organizations dealing with street children in Kampala are using are not sustainable. On the other hand, they instill a culture or syndrome of dependency among the street children and may not provide impetus for them to consider leaving the streets even after they have established their ancestral roots...on the other hand, it does not prepare the street children to face the challenges of future life as adults since by default, the children are not in school....our programs for livelihood and vocational skilling are critically important towards the livelihood of street children because they provide a route way to self-sustaining livelihoods....by doing so also, we have changed the attitude of the street children and transformed the hitherto believed dependents into self-propelling citizens...”

*Kitumbezi*, *Nangara*, *Muchahi* and *Nyamiyaga* worked for organizations that are yet to create a socio-economic empowerment wing for children living on the streets. However, as practitioners

and advocates of self-sustenance, the issue of livelihoods and vocational skilling ranks high on their agenda of socio-economic empowerment. *Nangara* revealed that the social workers have a formally instituted and registered professional organization that is multifaceted and has a wing for activism and lobbying. Through this portfolio, the social workers have been able to play a connecting role whereby they have lobbied several organizations and private entities to create spaces for children living on the streets to join as apprenticeships. The tangible outcomes of this approach according to *Kitumbezi* and *Nyamiyaga* was skilling and churning out of over 200 adults who have since been integrated in the communities and are living sustainably. These have acquired skills in carpentry and joinery, brick laying and concrete practice, pastry making, tailoring and fashion design, beauty salon skills and shoe repair and making. *Muchahi* narrated a significant success story of five clients that she connected to Mine Nature, a community-based organization based in Kawempe, one of the five divisions that make up Kampala city. *Muchahi* said;

“ Using the power of the networks to which I subscribe and exist as a steward of change, I was able to interact with *Kanankani* (Not Real Name) who is the executive director of Mine The Nature, an entrepreneurship biased CBO in Kawempe Division...This was during a symposium some six years ago when I shared the challenges that I faced with 13 to 17 year old children living on streets that have not managed to access schooling opportunities....*Kanankani* was quick to interject and advised me to reach out to his office and pick application forms.....Three girls and two boys were selected as beneficiaries of the entrepreneurship development programs and trained in tailoring and fashion design and pastry making (for girls) and shoe making and beauty salon skilling (boys).....10 years down the road, each of the beneficiaries now owns a vibrant business in their line of training to the extent that the girls who trained in pastry making has large scale bread baking factory in North eastern Uganda while one of the girls that trained in trained in shoe-making is the largest supplier of shoes to school going children and open shoes for youth in Eastern Uganda...”

It is important to note therefore that enabling the children living on the streets to acquire vocational skills is one way of empowering them to acquire tradable and survival skills that not only make them productive citizens but also can potentially induce them to go back home. This is even possible when the children who have been churned out from the vocational training units are provided with a seed grant of equipment paving way for self-employment. Borrowing a leaf from what was earlier said about synergies between the social workers and the meso-system, this

approach provides the cheapest way through which the children living on the streets can realise positive interactions with the environment. The above submission provides vivid evidence that social workers in Kampala city have taken a multi-dimensional approach that is focused on ensuring that children living on the streets are provided with a plethora of opportunities that have potential of restoring hope and even inducing them to go back to their ancestral homes as self-propelling young men and women with a bright future. In relation to the relevance of the skilling initiative rhyming the views of Bronfenbrenner, this finding is equally rooted in the tenets of Abraham Maslow's Needs-Hierarchy Theory that man progresses from simple or basic needs to complex ones. By attaching value and prime importance to vocational skilling, the children living on the streets can outgrow the suffering on the streets and be able to live a settled life off the streets.

## **b) Remedial approach**

Social workers who participated in the study revealed during interviews that they have equally been compelled to adopt remedial approaches for purposes of providing redress to the children living on the streets in Kampala city. Three main interventions that have been adopted and applied from time to time by the social workers are: provision of rehabilitation services, application of case management strategy and; resettlement and reintegration of the children in the communities. The case summaries from interviews on each mentioned interventions are provided in the below discussion.

### **i. Rehabilitation centres**

The study established that social workers were committed to rendering rehabilitation services to the children living on the streets. To this effect, the social workers have extended the scope of the services rendered to include rehabilitation. *Kitumbezi* and *Muchahi* revealed that under this arrangement, they have been able to link with organizations and public institutions to provide recovery therapies while also linking with legal protection service providers for redress of the challenges facing the street children and more especially those that are connected to abuse of the rights of the children living on the streets as well as those who have been molested by the community members known to the children living on the streets. At the units where the rehabilitation services are provided, *Nyamiyaga* noted that other related services are provided such as health camping services as well as life skilling sessions by guest speakers and subject

matter experts. However, *Nangara*, *Muchahi* and *Bubaare* mentioned that this activity has not produced the desired results as anticipated because the trafficked children living on the streets, owing to the unspeakable trauma they have lived with since arriving on streets, are more reserved and open up after a long period of time about any problems they have faced in the past, sometimes extending to a period of 5 years.

Street children too perceive rehabilitation centres as prisons for street children where they freedom is limited. GENERO H expressed “that those prisons for children (rehabilitation centres) are another hell on earth, when you are taken there, you cannot get a chance to see the other children that you left on streets, nor can you move at night I hear even going to ease yourself you must ask for permission.” In such a situation, the level of adaptation to the environment is low because the children conceive the micro-system to be unfavorable. This observation in my opinion is a spy stick that even a rehabilitation facility is established for the children living on the streets, the children should be prepared to appreciate what is forthcoming because any form of misinformation and disinformation can barely solve the problem. Rather, the resettled children will seek for ‘divorce’ in order to run back to the streets where they feel they are autonomous. This finding therefore underscores the need for rehabilitation centres for the children living on the streets. However, as angled by Bronfenbrenner (1979), the rehabilitation centres (form of microsystem) should be adorable such that the people living it find an alluring environment. Such an environment is important because it lays ground for establishment of meaningful relationships which are vital for supporting the adjustment of the person to the environment.

## **ii. Case management strategy**

As noted earlier in Section One about the needs of trafficked children living on the streets, vulnerability and proneness to social challenges as well as risky behaviors was cited by the respondent children and social workers. The psychosocial problems identified by the social workers that are common among children living on the streets were trauma, stress, sexual exploitation among girls and substance abuse among boys (and in rare cases, girls). These pitiful challenges affected the children living on the streets differently, given the marked individual differences among them. *Bubaare*, *Nangara* and *Nyamiyaga* noted that the increasing gravity of psychosocial problems has always necessitated the use of case management strategy. *Kitumbezi*

conceded during the interviews that use of case management strategy has not only increased the counselling service seeking among the children living on the streets but has also created a feel-good factor among the affected children given the conducive and non-interruptive environment that is often created by the social workers before the model is used. *Nyamiyaga* appraised the case management model as summed below;

“...From the synergies of working with social and clinical psychologists especially from Makerere University School of Psychology and Butabika National Referral Hospital, I have been able to learn practically how the case based management model is applied in addressing the social and emotional needs of the clients.....since 2019, I have always used the model on children who have been sexually abused, molested by the community members of within the enclaves where the children are normally stationed. This strategy has given me an upper hand in addressing the psychosocial issues that used to be teething problems and threats to my career....at university, I only acquired theoretical information about case based management and could not ably apply it without any practical guidelines.....I am now in a better position to handle any challenges that are brought before me by the children living on the streets”

The observation hints about collective efforts and co-creation of services between social workers and the psychologists which in the light of ecological systems theory clearly highlights that the meso-system has a plethora of opportunities that social workers can make use of while planning to improve the adjustment of the children living on the streets to the physical and social environment in which they live. It further highlights how the meso-system and macro-systems have a major role to play in ensuring that the micro-system is performing better.

### **iii. Resettlement and Reintegration Strategy or approach**

The last component under the remedial approaches was the option of resettlement or reintegration of the trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala in their ancestral communities. However, although all the social workers attested to have participated in the returning of some few children back to their communities/homes, this strategy was complicated. Three main reasons were raised that clearly explain why the reintegration of the trafficked children was complicated. Firstly, *Kitumbezi* and *Nangara* indicated that there are several layers of approvals to be made both in Kampala city and in the mother districts before any relocations are made. Muchahi shed more light on this matter of layered approvals and indicated that precision is required so that the children do not end up in wrong hands and either be re-trafficked

or used as objects of sacrifice, given the escalation of child sacrifice in Uganda over the last decade. Secondly, *Muchahi* and *Nangara* mentioned that whenever the parents or guardians get to know that their ‘lost’ children are staying on the streets, they covertly or overtly decide to banish them. Therefore, preparing the parents to have their attitude and perception towards their own renegade children is daunting. Thirdly, *Bubaare*, *Nyamiyaga* and *Kitumbezi* mentioned that the children themselves are at times indecisive. They seem to make decisions based on bandwagon especially after their network colleagues have left them and rejoined their parents and or guardians. *Kitumbezi* and *Nyamiyaga* reiterated that they have been betrayed by some children over the last three years, who after obtaining all the legal documents to facilitate their return, often ends in a mess (miss). For example, citing the case example of December 2019, *Kitumbezi* revealed that he went through all the phases of returning two girls and three boys all hailing from Eastern Uganda in the Districts of Mbale, Sironko and Manafwa. It is also worth noting that the returnees totaling to 25 in the last 3 years have seamlessly been integrated in the communities of origin and are now regarded as agents of change owing to the vocational survival skills that have been acquired overtime from training institutions. Evidence of the sustainable livelihoods among the returnees has been confirmed and documented by management of Kampala Capital City Authority as well as the MoLGSD and MoLHUD. The social workers carry out an annual evaluation and follow-up campaign that targets at ensuring that all the returnee children are engaged in generating income.

However, surprisingly, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, only one girl and one boy surfaced at City Square and boarded the waiting omnibus to their home. This was free transport but the rest (1 girl and 2 boys disappeared in oblivion. I believe this scenario is reflective of a shallow approach taken by the social workers because data mined from the reports accessed from KCCA and Divisional offices indicated that over 86% of the children living on the streets of Kampala due to internal trafficking are either from North-eastern Uganda in Karamoja region which is one of the poverty-stricken parts of the country with most households not assured of 3 meals a day while many children have even been pulled out of primary and secondary schools moreover, those offering universal education that is tuition free. Therefore, unless the triggers for children allowing to be taken to Kampala are addressed, hardly can they accept amicably to be taken back. This accounts for why we have many returnees after years of relocation to this zone by the government. In the same fate, is northern Uganda which was swamped by Lord’s Resistance

Army (LRA) led by Joseph Kony. The Internally Displaced Camps (IDCs) to where majority of the population lived crippled their socio-economic potentials resulting in blazing poverty. So, like Karamoja region, unless such structural rigidities leading to poverty in the area are addressed, any choice to convince the children to return is mere lip service.

The observations above are reflected by Bronfenbrenner (1979) when he argues that whenever an individual fails to adapt to the environment, they can relocate to a newer environment as long as they are convinced that they can seamlessly fit and benefit from the new environment. I agree wholesomely to this proposition because in instances when we find that the home origin environment was unbearable to the child before they run to the streets, then it does not carry any sense to emphasize that they must be relocated to the same environment. Therefore, social workers should impose their stance sparingly as insisting on convincing the children to return to their ancestral homes might not be sustainable.

#### **4.3.3 Follow up intervention.**

Regardless of the nature and level of intervention, follow up was conducted by social workers as an integral part of service delivery. This was done to ensure that the implemented actions were yielding the anticipated results on wellbeing and prevention of child trafficking. It was also done to ensure access to support in case a problem came up at any level during or after an intervention like resettlement.

#### **4.4 Challenges of social workers in addressing the needs of trafficked children**

Objective three (3) assessed the challenges facing the social workers dealing with the children living on the streets of Kampala city. Below is an account of the challenges that have plagued work efficiency of social workers over time;

##### **i) Trust/Mistrust**

Building trusting relationships according to the respondent social workers was complicated. As indicated earlier, this study never used the exo-system, one of the constructs in the Ecological Theory in interpreting the findings of the study about the needs of trafficked children living on the streets and the practical approaches applied by the social workers. The omission of the component resulted from the issue of trust/mistrust problem. The children living on the streets

throughout the interviews were not comfortable to share their views whenever I mentioned anything to do with the institutions in the exosystem particularly Uganda Police Force and Kampala Capital City Authority. The social workers indicated that this underpins the emergence of the challenge of trust among the children which is hindering their role performance. The precedence for this challenge, according to *Nangara* and *Bubaare* is attributed to the past case scenarios where the children living on the streets were roughed up by the law enforcement officers after the information about their experience with trafficking in children was divulged by social workers. From the parlance of social ethics, this act was unprofessional. Arguably, *Muchahi* cited the old adage that “once beaten, twice shy...hardly can one brave to point their finger in a hole suspected to be a home of a snake after they have suffered from a snake bite”. The children living on the streets therefore have a point to make because the past history has shown them the coping strategies that they ought to use in order not to be easily identifiable from the rest of the street children living on the streets. The submission of *Kitumbezi* about the challenge of mistrust comports with *Muchahi* that building relationships with the street children takes a long period of time and at times, there are some few cases who completely shun us and are not ready to deal with us. This is quite challenging. One day, when I tried to establish why some of the children living on the streets were indifferent to our services, one of the members told me;

“ An African proverb goes; for the rest of its life, the sheep will always be worried of the wolf only to be eaten the shepherd....you are put in moods of sharing your life experiences to a social worker (shepherd) especially about your worries with law enforcement officers (wolves) only for the shepherd to suddenly turn into a wolf by sharing the information with security and law enforcement officers....this puts one in the spotlight of succumbing to ping pong games with the security as well as attracting threats from the traffickers especially when the law enforcement officers chose to lay ground work to trap them and bring them to book...”

The limited preparedness of the children living on the streets to become receptive to the social workers has an implication on the efficiency levels of the social workers. Evidence of this matter was provided by *Nangara* as follows;

“It is hard to establish a relationship with trafficked children. They withhold information because they can no longer trust adults who have violated them in the name of helping them... each time, I learn

something new about the children in my care and this sometimes changes the entire childcare plan”.

Also notably, the mistrust extends to the environment in the rehabilitation centres. Social workers pointed out that having been under controlled situations in the hands of traffickers and obviously, the trafficked children living on the streets conceived rehabilitation centres to be more or less detention camps. The trafficked children living on the streets revealed that the freelancing environment along the streets where everyone knows that such and such a place is a home for the street children is far better than someone moving into a rehabilitation centre where there are ‘near impossible’ rules of conduct. *Muchahi* expressed fears that at times, the control facilities have a domino effect on emotional healing progress of the children under rehabilitation. *Muchahi* summed up the submission in the following words “*To them, the environment is threatening and could be re-traumatizing, but it must be extremely controlled for security purposes*”.

## **ii) Language barriers**

Uganda is largely a heterogeneous nation and one of the culturally rich nations with 56 tribal groups recognized by the 1995 Constitution. One of the notable characteristic features arising from this cultural richness are multiple dialects that are spoken over. The different ethnic groups to which the tribes belong has sharp differences in regard to phonetics and the syntax used in communication. Consequently, *Muchahi*, *Bubaare* and *Kitumbezi* noted that they have always faced a language barrier problem while attending to the street children because they speak different dialects from mutually spoken *Luganda* dialect in Kampala city. As well, given the political god parenting disease in Uganda characterized by nepotism, some of the social workers are equally green about *Luganda*. So, they can hardly carry out any activity in the absence of interpreters. POLITIKI 1 and 3 wondered how someone who does not speak *Luganda* is entrusted with the task of counseling a client who does not understand the client’s language and the client themselves do not understand the language of the counsellor. This is a mere wastage of the taxpayer’s money for government or donor funds for NGOs.

As a result of this structural rigidity, *Nangara* and *Nyamiyaga* revealed that they are at times compelled to find interpreters. This involvement of the third party means that the virtues of therapies defined by the case-based management model as well as other forms of counseling are watered down and lost altogether. *Kitumbezi* expressed the impact of language barrier on their

work in the following words; “the children deserve to be heard in private and having an interpreter around seems to them like many people are listening to their sad stories, hence hiding vital information”. In the wake of this challenge, therefore even follow-ups are complicated because in the absence of an interpreter, no meaningful work can be done by a social worker.

This finding points to the impact of the meso-system in influencing the interaction between children living on the streets and the environment. As long as the children continue to be served by social workers who are not supported by some of influential people in the communities, the social workers’ interventions cannot become impactful and therefore, the children cannot realise positive outcomes from the environment.

### **iii) Resource limitation**

As earlier noted under the subtheme of livelihood and vocational skilling, there is usually competition for the opportunities that arise. Some of the children willing to be absorbed and left out by the service providers tend to become indifferent. Sometimes, the children develop a negative attitude towards the social workers and this affects the routine work activities as on many occasions, the aggrieved children boycott the sessions. Besides, *Muchahi* and *Nangara* noted that the work of engaging street children is quite demanding on the side of social workers and yet they are just a handful. Even when they are willing to work beyond gazetted time, *Kitumbezi* mentioned that their employers operate on meagre budgets and therefore, they can hardly entertain any proposals for raising their emoluments or even to authorize payment of overtime allowances for any work time extensions.

*Kitumbezi* summed up this challenge and said “you need money to right from enrolment of a survivor in this rehabilitation centre, to the time you resettle the child, through to conducting follow ups”. The other indicator of resource constraints was the limited number of social workers and yet the size of street children is quite big. *Muchahi* mentioned that while they were five in the Department in 2019, the number has since been reduced to only two, a male and a female due to the aftermath of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) which induced massive layoffs of workers by organizations to enable them creep out of the recessionary situation ushered in by COVID-19. Therefore, in absolute and relative terms, the efficiency levels as well as effectiveness of the social workers has been disrupted. This finding clearly shows that the meso

and macro-systems have key roles to play in supporting the seamless adjustment of a person in the environment. The failure of the organizations (meso) working with the children living on the streets and the government agencies and institutions (macro) to allocate sizeable resources and deploy adequate staff to the cause of the children has impacted negatively on the welfare of the children who used to receive regular services from the social workers.

POLITIKI 2 on this challenge indicated that the government is just reluctant to minimize the gravity of trafficking in children as well as in addressing the recurring problem of trafficked children living on the streets. He quoted an example of financial year 2019/2020 where the government shelved their proposal for establishing a rehabilitation centre for children living on the streets. He reiterated that this happened because the ruling government thought that this development would give plaudits to the opposition politicians which by implication means that as long as the government has not won seats in opposition strongholds in Kampala district, the issue of trafficked children living on the streets will be perpetual.

#### **iv) Personal security**

The respondent social workers revealed that they are operating in an environment that is scaring. *Muchahi* and *Nangara* revealed that in the last 3 to 4 years, they have been receiving anonymous calls threatening them to bark off any issues related to trafficking in children. As a result, they rarely visit some areas which are known as havens of traffickers in children. These threats have limited the mobility of the social workers hence leaving some parts of the city unattended to. Traffickers sometimes attempted to take back rescued children for fear of being reported. The social workers too, have to be conscious about their own security to prevent any harm to them and the children. This situation is a little threatening to the social workers and believably, they cannot compromise their security for the sake of serving the children living on the streets. It is therefore important to deduce that social workers could be forced to abandon some of work in progress however much critical it is to meet the needs of the street children because of the threats. This challenge therefore further minimizes the possibilities with which the numerous needs of the trafficked children can be met. As mentioned earlier, it is also important to note that providing security to the social workers while on duty may not be a feasible approach as it has strong implications on trust between social workers and the children.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

In this chapter, the study findings are discussed thematically and cross-referenced with literature reviewed in Chapter Two. The discussed findings are also compared and contrasted with Needs Hierarchy Theory of Abraham Maslow and well as Ecological Systems Theory by Bronfenbrenner (1979) that underpinned this study. This intended to mesh and situate the study findings study in the existing theoretical dispositions. Furthermore, the discussion of emerging findings showcases the criticality of service needs provided by the social workers to the children living on the streets.

### **5.2 Services needs of the children living on streets**

Children living on the streets of Kampala have become a point of concern to communities in and around Kampala city. The children are highly regarded as a social problem whose solution must be sought now than later. The study results showed that human trafficking has brought about increasing numbers of children living on the streets in Kampala city. Across the world, cities are environments where meeting the costs of the day is problematic especially to residents who lack stable income and or are not actively engaged in employment and business. The trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city are ideally facing complex social problems because they are not formally engaged in income generation through business or employment. If at all, they are homeless and cannot find any possible place where they can live as a home other than the streets. Firstly, life on the streets is unpleasant because of the threatening conditions such as traffic and human congestion and absence of free spaces where the children can relax. Secondly, the children living on the streets can barely afford a meal unless they either go for begging or engaging in illicit activities such as pick-pocketing. Thirdly, cities across the world face the challenge of insecurity and therefore, in the process of city law enforcement officials such as Uganda Police Force and Kampala Capital City Authority combing the different parts of the city to enforce order and sanity, the end up apprehending street children. In the process of children running away for safety, there is possibility of accidents, given the busy nature of the city especially during daytime. Fourthly, since some of the human needs such as food cannot be postponed, the trafficked children living on the streets have to find means of survival and for this reason, regular visits to municipal skips and other open garbage dumping centres are commonly

visited for food leftovers and resale materials such as metallic scraps. On the one hand, leftover food is contaminated by pathogens and therefore, the health of trafficked children is affected. On the other hand, the collection of metallic scraps also exposes the children to injuries which equally compromises the health of the children.

This kind of lifestyle discussed above reflects the attempts by the trafficked children living on the streets to meet their needs through adaptation. This is a clear indication of the assumptions of the ecological system theory that an individual relates and interacts with systems and subsystems in the environment and that most of the time, these systems and subsystems are complex (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). However, as identified by Maslow, the indispensable nature of some of our needs especially physiological such as food must compel us to act and therefore, the imminent visits to municipal skips by trafficked children living on the streets for both leftover food and metallic scraps must happen because they have to eat. This question about survival therefore implies that children living on the streets have several needs that may either be social, psychosocial, emotional, feeding or protection that ought to be provided. This finding rhymes Sugianto and Nugroho (2021) who established that street life creates greater conditions of need for street children. Some of these needs are basic and must be provided to human beings if they are to ably maintain physiological and psychological balances that are necessary for one to live (Nasir et al., 2014; Sugianto & Nugroho, 2021). For instance, according to Sambo (2012) that health care is key to address the challenge injuries that are inflicted on the children from the time of capture through transportation to the final destination. However, in the context of Kampala city, the injuries are equally sustained from collection of metallic scraps. This aspect is not mentioned by Sambo and so we can infer from this study that trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city have greater need for healthcare than possibly trafficked children from other city environments where collection of metallic scrap materials is not adopted by the children for survival.

It was noted from the study that at night, the trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city sleep in polyfibre gunny bags on verandahs of commercial buildings. Some even used abandoned sewer pipes for accommodation. As a result, they have shelter and hygiene and sanitation needs. Maslow mentions shelter as a physiological need. Therefore, the safety of the trafficked children living on the streets is a great need. I believe that other needs on Maslow's

pyramid can easily be provided when one has a safer place of belonging or shelter. This finding is congruent with Kathy (2017) who argued that physiological needs such as shelter are necessary if one is to live a stable and modest life. The same needs are also mentioned by Bronfenbrenner (1979) in describing what the micro, meso and macro-systems are destined to provide to enable a child to successfully interact and live harmoniously in the environment, the consequent life needs such as sustainable social relationships can be realized. Failure to meet the above needs means that trafficked children living on the streets will always face adjustment problems and therefore, they should and ought to be supported. The support will enable them to meet the bare minimum living conditions and this can even create opportunities that are capable of enabling the children to change their lifestyles for sustainable livelihoods either in rehabilitation centres or villages that being created by the NGOs in Uganda or when they have chosen to relocate to their ancestral homes at a future date.

### **5.3 Perceptions of children living on streets about approaches used by social workers.**

Social workers are credited by this study for what has been done so far in providing the needs of children living on the streets much as a big proportion of what they should have done is yet to be realized by the trafficked children living on the streets. Social workers are offering protection services to children living on the streets because of the high degree of vulnerability that exposes them to body injuries, sexual exploitation, child labor and living in squalor. Children living on the streets have several needs that hinge on how successful their primary needs like feeding and shelter have been fulfilled. This is related to Maslow's Theory (Nasir et al., 2014) who says that physiological needs must be fulfilled before social needs are thought about and Bronfenbrenner's Theory that successful adjustment to the entire ecosystems is predetermined by how well the individual journeys through the micro-system. As long as the children living on the streets have not gratified the physiological needs such as shelter, food and health, it is not possible to meet higher level needs such as love and esteem needs (Nasir et al., 2014). The study reported several subcategories of approaches such as individual and group counseling therapies, case-based management approach, vocational skilling and embracing of networks with communities and psychologists. These were perceived by the street children as very important to their life. The findings rhyme observations of Amadasun (2022) that social workers play a referral role and even lobby other line service providers for support services to the trafficked children living on the streets. This commendable referral role by social workers is credited by this study because,

the institutions to which the social workers are affiliated may not have adequate resources at hand to enable them to meet the requisitions made by the social workers. Borrowing the Danish adage that ‘combined efforts break the bone’, referrals and joint efforts between social workers and other service organizations fills the skills and resource voids that would impede the operational performance of the social workers dealing with trafficked children living on the streets.

Social workers dealing with trafficked children on the streets have adopted many approaches to provide for the needs. This decision is also credited by this study because equally, the children have several needs that cannot be addressed using a single approach. For instance, children need food, emotional support, shelter, life skills, healthcare, protection from exploitation and vocational educational needs. Therefore, while Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for example has potency for addressing the emotional needs, it has little to offer for feeding or vocational educational skill needs. The use of several approaches therefore can enhance the holistic development of the trafficked children. This finding comports with the prescriptions of Karthika (2021) who argued that social workers are in a better position to provide for the needs of vulnerable children when they adopt a holistic approach and exploit s to power of enabling professionals to screen intersectional problems to identify and understand the broader challenges. The holistic nature of support provided by the social workers in Kampala city is in consonance with the observations of Greenbaum et al. (2023) who noted that social workers aiming at providing requisite support should adopt a trauma-informed, rights-based, culturally sensitive approach. Furthermore, the study findings mirror observations of Nasir et al. (2014) that children living on the streets are dehumanizing while also, the children have been dehumanized since they are stuck in the physiological needs such as lack of shelter, food, healthcare, clean water and often times, clothes. Basing on this precarious situation, any professional support provided to them must be multi-faceted so that the bare minimum service needs are met. Failure to do so and more especially meeting of the physiological needs presupposes that their human development is choked.

#### **5.4 Challenges facing social workers dealing with children living on streets.**

The commendable work done by the social workers reported in this study is faced by some challenges. One of the service needs is education and given the resource constraints, social workers are powerless. Uganda's National Development Plan III and Uganda Vision 2040 does not emphasize social development of vulnerable people. This negation implies that, in the near future no plans are on board to boost the services catering for marginalized children such as education, health, and other social services. Therefore, as long as advocacy needs have not been strengthened, service needs of children living on streets will hardly be provided by the government. The limited attention made to the social service needs of the trafficked children living on the streets implies that social workers including those from Kampala Capital City Authority and Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development who might be deployed by these institutions at a future date as is envisaged, are more likely to work under conditions that are not favorable to them and therefore, they may not be able to provide for the needs of the trafficked children in the best possible manner. As such, the conditions of street children might not improve greatly.

Trust/ mistrust plagues the work of social workers dealing with trafficked children in Kampala city. This challenge affects the quality of services that are provided to the children as confidence to open up and identify with the social workers for support is delayed. This challenge affects the operational efficiency of the social workers in two ways. Firstly, it is time consuming to build the required rapport with the children living on the streets and as a result, it is problematic for social workers to provide some of the critical service needs such as case-based management therapies especially where some children are discrete and take time to open up because of trust issues. This complicates the services provision by social workers. Secondly, the length of time it takes to build the rapport affects the routine schedules of the social workers. Specifically, it interrupts their work schedules and planning since the time taken to build the rapport can hardly be estimated. Consequently, the social workers may be thought of as inefficient when in actual sense they are not.

Social workers in Kampala city are insecure. The threats and most of the time from anonymous callers is a blow to the commitment of the social workers. Generally, it is imperative to note that

in the wake of mounting feelings of insecurity, the social workers can lose interest in whatever they are doing with the trafficked children and may equally shy away from some activities that are likely to increase the ire of those threatening them. For instance, the social workers may be forced to abandon any plans of making referrals of children-to-children rights *pro bono* service providers and yet this should have been one of the key roles they would have played in the absence of threats, building on their earlier advantage mentioned that social workers succeed in building rapport and thereby cultivating confidence to open up among the children living on the streets. The findings are in agreement with Botha and Warriia (2021) who identified the challenge of insecurity of social workers as a malaise that has affected the effectiveness of the services provided to vulnerable children. The aspect of insecurity of social workers reported by this study has been raised elsewhere by Warriia and Chikadizi (2020) who noted that human trafficking is a highly capitalized venture estimated at \$150 billion and therefore, social workers may not allocate adequate time to trafficked children and may even fear to establish the social challenges faced by the children for fear of backfire from the traffickers.

## **CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter of the study highlights key findings in summarized forms, draws conclusions and presents recommendations from the study for improved service delivery.

### **6.2 Summary of findings**

The study set out to answer three research questions; a) what services are needed by trafficked children living on streets? b) What are the perceptions and opinions of children living on streets about the approaches used by social workers in addressing their needs? c) What are the challenges faced by social workers while addressing the needs of trafficked children living on streets? Data to provide answers to the above research questions were generated through interviews with children living on streets, social workers, political leaders in KCCA and NGO representative. Below, were the major findings;

- a) Trafficked children living on streets of Kampala have several needs that ought to be met. These include: need for protection, health care, emergency/temporary shelter, psychosocial support, professional resettlement and life skills training. Therefore, as long as the mentioned needs of trafficked children are not fully met, they become more vulnerable. Moreover, stakes are high that they will develop post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).
  
- b) Social workers in Kampala city have applied several approaches to provide some of the needs mentioned above. For example, most social workers have implemented prevention approaches, including; awareness creation, community mobilization; and establishment of livelihood and empowerment projects. Further, the social workers have also implemented remedial approaches that included; establishment of rehabilitation centres, case management; and resettlement and reintegration. Lastly, follow-up services were rendered by social workers. The motivation for follow-up services is to ensure that the interventions implemented have a practical significance in improving the livelihoods of trafficked children.

- c) This study established social workers are grappling with the issue of trust/mistrust. This challenge has hampered the effectiveness of counseling services. The social workers mentioned that some children living on the streets never opened up. From the principles and practices of social work, a challenge of this type impedes the application of case-based management and individual counseling therapies. Other challenges besides mistrust include language barrier issues which cause delays in services delivery since the social workers have to rely on interpreters. Thus, whenever the interpreters are committed elsewhere, routine counseling services (RCS) can hardly be provided. Lastly, limited human and capital resources as well as insecurity were other key barriers to serving children living on streets with diligence.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

From the study findings, the following conclusions can be drawn;

- a) Trafficked children living on the streets have several needs that ought to be catered for by the concerned parties, social workers inclusive. The multiple needs equally require use of various interventions and approaches in order to ensure that they have been duly and fully met. A big credit goes to the children living on the streets for the strategies undertaken to meet their needs even before benefitting from the interventions of the social workers. This has increased their receptivity to the programmes rolled out by social workers from time to time, consequently improving their living standards to some degree.
- b) Social workers in Kampala city have played a vital role in catering for the ever-changing needs of the trafficked children living on the streets of Kampala city. However, to a large extent, the service scope is narrow and therefore, it cannot fully cater for the ever-emerging needs. This study concluded that the service scope partially addresses the needs of children living on the streets.
- c) The services provided have not addressed all the key needs of the children living on the streets. This study concluded that the existing shortages of manpower, inadequate logistics, mistrust and language issues have collectively posted a negative impact on the

performance of social workers and possibly the reason why the needs of children living on streets of Kampala have continued to manifest.

## **6.4 Recommendations**

Based on the above conclusions drawn by this study, the following recommendations are made for practice and research.

### **6.4.1 Recommendations to social workers**

- a) The social workers need more knowledge about the ecological conditions that could have induced the children living on the streets to give in to the internal traffickers. Thus, before any plans are concluded about relocating willing children to their native homes, social workers should make effective mapping of the areas to ensure that children returnees will live under better conditions that cannot make them to think of submitting to traffickers should they visit the same areas.
- b) Social workers are reminded to continue playing the role of advocacy and lobbying for the street children. They should consider tagging their campaigns alongside companies such as Movit Products Limited (Giant Cosmetics Manufacturing Company) and Mobile Telecommunication Corporation (MTN) which have a proven and reputable track of engaging in multimillion corporate social responsibility programs. This will open inroads for publicity and fundraising for children living on the streets.
- c) Children have emotional, mental and psychosocial challenges facing them on the streets. To ameliorate this, the management of organizations employing the social workers are advised to ensure that social workers are engaged in continuous capacity building so that they can become excellent and diligent to deal with the several challenges that face trafficked children living on the streets.
- d) Social workers should also consider using Social Network Sites (SNS) such as Twitter and Facebook so that they can always engage the subscribers. The increased visibility will greatly improve communication and information sharing.

#### **6.4.2 Recommendations for government of Uganda**

- a) The government can plan for socio-economic empowerment programmes in the source areas of the children living on the streets so that the parents and guardians are empowered to become supportive of their children hence protecting them from possibilities of being lured by traffickers. This is even more possible now with rolling out of the Parish Development Model that allows for capitalization of youth and women groups as well as Savings Credit and Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). This will increase financial inclusion, deepening and credit access consequently leading to local economic development in these areas.
- b) The government may consider the establishment of a multi-purpose rehabilitation centres as an urgent and important need required to ensure that the dehumanization of children living on the streets at the hands of KCCA and Uganda Police law enforcement officers.
- c) The government of Uganda may try passing legislations to deter internal human trafficking. This could begin with collaborating with Uganda Bus Owners and Drivers Association and Uganda Taxi Owners and Drivers Association to take keen steps before they allow unaccompanied children or children with strangers to first produce clearances from Local Councils and Uganda Police before they can be allowed to travel. This strategy is critical because many children living on the streets as young as 5 years old are born in areas located 200-500 kilometers away from major urban centres including Kampala city.

#### **6.4.3 Recommendations for future research**

Future researchers may consider the following topics to improve understanding of child trafficking.

- Role of social workers in catering for the needs of the victims of trafficking in children in other environments outside Kampala such as Jinja city and Gulu city.
- Efficacy of the interventions implemented by social workers on beneficiary children living on the streets is another important area for study.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

My name is Martin Nkurunungi, I am a student pursuing a master's degree in social work and human rights at Gothenburg University. I am undertaking a thesis titled "**Provision of Social workers to victims of internal child trafficking in Uganda; a case study of children living on the streets in Kampala City-Uganda.**" You have been purposively selected to participate in this study. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your identity will not be required. Participation in the study is voluntary and you will be free not to answer any questions you find uncomfortable, or to withdraw from the study at the start or even midway.

Kindly spare some time to answer these questions.

#### **Consent (circle the appropriate option)**

- a) Yes, I will participate in the study.
- b) No, I will not participate in the study.

#### **Questions**

1. What are the factors that exerted child trafficking in Kampala capital city authority?
2. What would you say are the needs of trafficked children in Kampala?
3. How is the needs assessment conducted with trafficked children?
4. Kindly share the roles that you play as social workers to address the challenges met.
5. Kindly explain the criteria you use to screen for service eligibility.
6. Take me through the referral pathways for reporting child trafficking.
7. What are the steps you take in handling children from the time of enrolment for services to graduation of the services?
8. Describe to me your approaches to addressing child trafficking.
9. How comprehensive is the service package for trafficked children.
10. How have you tried to ensure targeted messages for prevention of Child trafficking
11. Describe how the government is involved in service provision or how you collaborate to address the needs of trafficked children.
12. Explain to me the challenges you encounter in providing such a service as a social worker to

trafficked children.

13. How could methods of victim protection and implementation be improved?

*Thank you so much for participating in the study.*

## **APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN LIVING ON STREETS.**

**My name is Martin Nkurunungi, I am a student pursuing a master's degree in social work and human rights at Gothenburg University. I am undertaking a thesis titled "Provision of Social workers to victims of internal child trafficking in Uganda; a case study of children living on the streets in Kampala City-Uganda."** I hereby request you to participate in this study. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your identity will not be required. Participation in the study is voluntary and you will be free not to answer any questions you find uncomfortable, or to withdraw from the study at the start or even midway.

### **Consent (circle the appropriate option)**

- a) Yes, I will participate in the study.
- b) No, I will not participate in the study.

### **Questions**

1. What was the situation like at your home before you set off to come to Kampala?
2. Could you have chosen not to come if the situation was different?
3. Please describe how you got here.
4. Kindly explain to me your relationship with anyone who facilitated your travel to Kampala.
5. Please describe your relationship with your caretaker if any in Kampala.
6. What are your pressings needs in the situation you live in?
7. Do you think government and social workers are doing enough to address your needs?
8. Explain to me the available reporting structures in case you want to leave this situation.
9. Please describe any income generation activities that you are engaged in.
10. Kindly tell me about the challenges you find while living on the streets.
11. In case you were to be helped, how do you think it should be done?
12. What key needs do you think should be addressed for you to regain social functioning?
13. Please describe any instances when you have been approached by a social worker for help.
14. How do you think the problem of child trafficking in Kampala can be solved completely?

*Thank you so much for participating in the study.*

## APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR POLITICAL LEADERS

My name is Martin Nkurunungi, I am a student pursuing a master's degree of Social Work and Human Rights at Gothenburg University. I am undertaking a thesis titled "**Provision of Social workers to victims of internal child trafficking in Uganda; a case study of children living on the streets in Kampala City-Uganda.**" You have been selected to participate in this study. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your identity will not be required. Participation in the study is voluntary and you will be free not to answer any questions you find uncomfortable, or to withdraw from the study at the start or even midway.

### Consent (circle the appropriate option)

- a) Yes, I will participate in the study.
- b) No, I will not participate in the study.

### Questions

- 1) What is the magnitude of child trafficking in your area?
- 2) How does child trafficking manifest in your area?
- 3) Explain to me the needs of these trafficked children in your area.
- 4) Please describe any advocacy works you have done to control child trafficking in your area of jurisdiction.
- 5) Enumerate some of the partners you work with to control child trafficking in our area
- 6) What are these partners doing to address the challenge?
- 7) Could you please explain to me some of the approaches used by partners to address challenges?
- 8) How would you describe the level of impact of these approaches to controlling child trafficking?
- 9) What are the challenges you face in addressing this vice?
- 10) What policy alternatives would you suggest that can address the vice of child trafficking?

*Thank you so much for participating in the study*

## **APPENDIX D: LUGANDA VERSION OF INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN LIVING ON STREETS**

Elinnya lyange, Nze Martin Nkurunung Ndi Muyizi owa digiri ey'okubiri mu ssomo ly'okusitula embeera z'abantu okuva ku ssettendekero emanyidwa nga Gothenburg University. Ndi mukukola kunoonyelaza wansi w'omutwe ogugamba nti **“okwekeneenya emilimo egikolebwa abasituzi bembeela zabantu (social workers) mubuweeleza eli abaana abakukusibwa mu Uganda, naddala abo abali ku nguudo z'ekibuga Kampala”**. Byogenda okungamba bigenda kukozezebwa ku nsonga za kusoma kwange zokka ela bijja kukumibwa nga byakyama. Elinnya lyo telijja kwetaagibwa. Okwetaba mu kunoonyeleza kuno kwa nakyeewa, ela ojjakuba n'omukisa obutaddamu bibuuzo ebyo byolaba nga bikumalako eddembe oba n'okuva mu kunoonyeleza kuno kuntandikwa, mumakati oba obudde bwonna.

### **Olukusa okugenda mu maaso nokunoonyeleza kuno (consent)**

- c) Yye, Njakwetaba mu kunoonyeleza kuno
- d) Nedda, sigenda kwetaba mu kunoonyeleza kuno

### **Ebibuuzo (Questions)**

1. Embeela yali etya ewaka nga tonajja mu Kampala?
2. Wandilonzeewo okusigala ewaka ewamwe siinga embeela yali yanjawulo?
3. Mbuulilaako engeli jewatuukamu wano
4. Nyinyonyola enkolagana eyaliwo wakati wo nooyo eyateekateeka enzijjayo mu Kampala
5. Nyinyonyola enkolagana eliwo wakati wo nooyo akulinako obuyinza mu Kampala
6. Byetaago ki ebisinga byolina mu mbeela gyobeelamu?
7. Olowooza gavumenti n'abasituzi beembeela z'abantu bakola ekimala okuweeleza ebyetaago ebyo?
8. Nyinyonyola emitendela gyoyinza okuyitamu okufuna obuyambi okuva mumbeela gyolimu
9. Nyinyonyola emilimo gyonna gyokola okufuna sente saawa eno
10. Mbuulilaako ku kusoomozebwa by'osanga olwokubeela ku nguudo.
11. Singa obadde wakuyambibwa, olowooza kyandikoledwa kitya?
12. Byetaago ki ebisinga ebilina okukolebwako obbeele bulunji nga omuntu mukitundu gyobeela?

13. Nyumizaayo omulundi gwewali otuukilidwaako omusituzi wembeela z,abantu okuyambibwa ?

14. Olowooza ekizibu kyokukukusa abaana mu Kampala kiyinza kumalibwawo kitya?

*Webale nnyo Okwetaba mu Kunoonyeleza kuno.*

**APPENDIX E: ASSENT LETTER FROM KCCA**



**DIRECTORATE OF GENDER,  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND  
PRODUCTION**

8<sup>TH</sup>/02/2023

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: AUTHORISATION OF MARTIN NKURUNUNGI TO INTERVIEW STREET CHILDREN.**

I take this opportunity to introduce to you Martin Nkurunungi who is a Student of a Masters of Social Work and Human Rights at University of Gothenburg Sweden.

Martin Nkurunungi has been given Authorization to interview Street Children in Kampala, Uganda.

Any assistance extended to him is highly welcome.

Yours Sincerely,



**Peter Lwanga Mayanja, 0761008049**

**PROBATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER,**

**KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY, (KCCA) UGANDA**



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