
The current situation of sexually exploited girls in Old Fadama, Accra, Ghana

Scoping Report,
January 2017

Mandy John-Baptiste

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Old Fadama, Accra
December 2016

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| Introduction | 2 |
| Relevant International and National Policies..... | 4 |
| International | 4 |
| National..... | 4 |
| Consultation Evidence and Findings | 5 |
| 1. The age of a child | 6 |
| Findings: | 7 |
| 2. Knowledge of children being sexually exploited in Old Fadama..... | 7 |
| Findings | 9 |
| 3. Reasons for children being sexually exploited | 10 |
| Findings | 11 |
| 4. Agencies you know about or who work in Old Fadama..... | 11 |
| Findings | 12 |
| 5. Ideas and recommendations to stop sexual exploitation..... | 12 |
| Findings | 13 |
| Report Recommendations | 13 |
| References | 16 |
| Appendix A: Consultation Questions | 17 |

Executive Summary

This report was commissioned to investigate reports of sexual exploitation of girls in Old Fadama, Accra. The report shares evidence of, and responses to, child sexual exploitation through consultation with relevant stakeholders, including girls and community members from Old Fadama; a range of statutory agencies; INGOs working in Accra; and the Ministry of Gender.

The consultation shows that despite a strong national policy framework there is clear evidence of widespread sexual exploitation of vulnerable girls as young as 10 in the Old Fadama informal settlement. It reveals organised internal trafficking networks as well as exploitation of girls by non-Ghanaians. The evidence highlights the lack of services accessible and available for children, and the frustrations felt by statutory agencies who struggle to provide a coordinated and effective response.

The report also recommends a number of key actions to build the capacity of civil society and statutory agencies to respond appropriately to child sexual exploitation. These align with the recommendations from the 2015 UNICEF report, *'Building a national child protection system in Ghana: From evidence to policy and practice.'*¹ Actions include:

- Support of local CSOs to submit data and evidence of child sexual exploitation to the National Child Protection Committee; leading to responsive and targeted planning and resourcing of activities from key stakeholders.
- Social Welfare and Community Development Officers who are responsible for the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy in Old Fadama should take part in the planned national policy orientation training.
- Increased support, coordination and accountability of relevant statutory agencies.
- Increased community education and awareness around child sexual exploitation and reporting procedures.

The report highlights the vulnerabilities and needs of girls in Old Fadama and believes urgent action is needed to protect children from sexual exploitation and prosecute the perpetrators of abuse.

Introduction

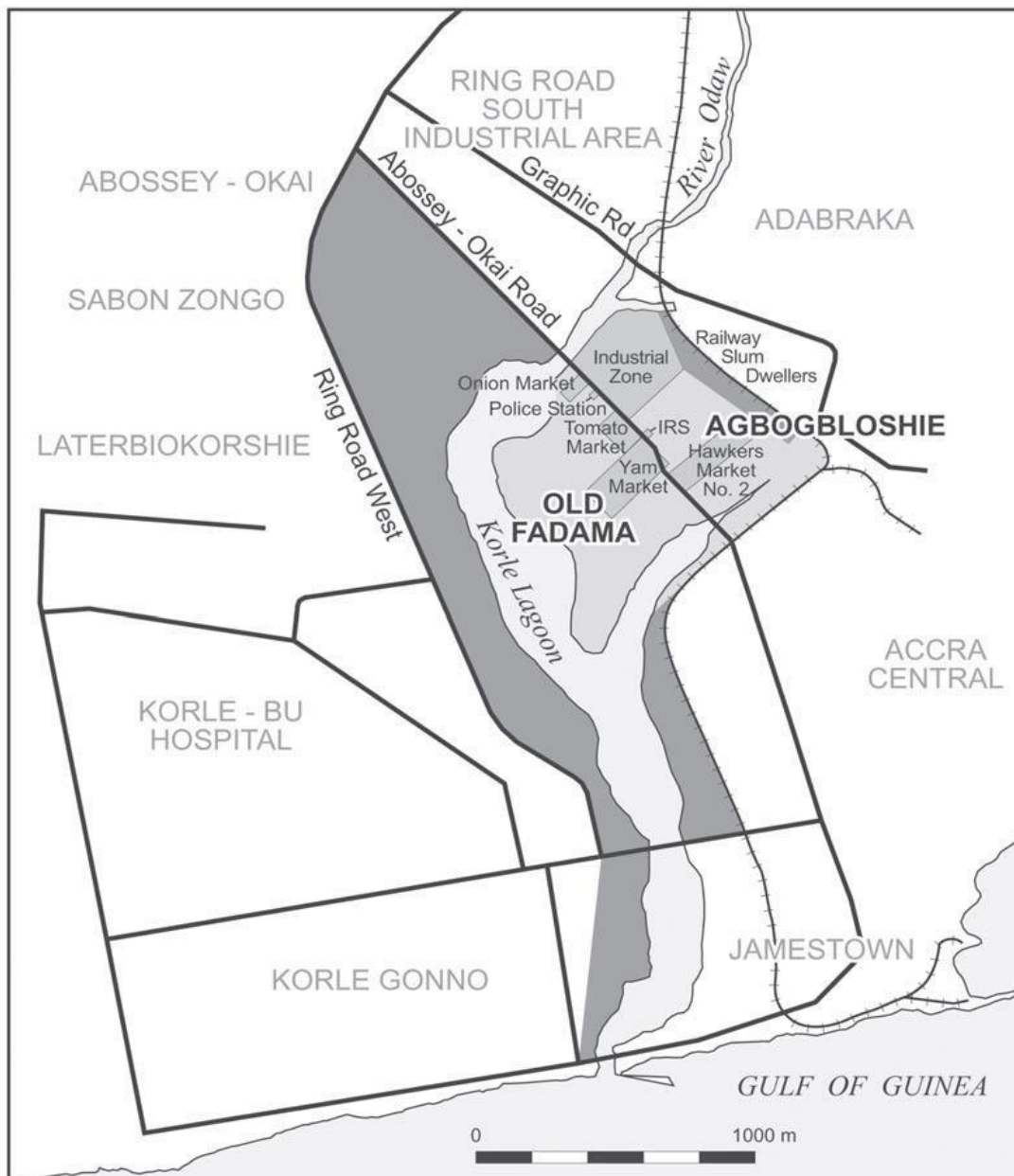
In August 2015, Theatre for a Change UK (UK charity commission: no. 1104458) started to work with local Ghanaian facilitators to develop The Women of Dignity Alliance (WODA), a Network for female sex workers living and working in Accra. WODA provides a safe space and support structure for female sex workers and advocates for their rights and their dignity to be respected. WODA currently works with 50 former and current female sex workers from Jamestown, Railways and Old Fadama in Accra. Theatre for a Change UK supports WODA with strategic development, capacity building and fundraising. For further information please see: <http://www.tfacafrica.com/what-we-do/ghana/>.

During 2016, as WODA's reputation grew, the project team, made up of six facilitators and two project staff, reported increased numbers of girls asking to join activities. It became apparent that these girls were living in bars and brothels and were being sexually exploited.

¹ https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Ghana_CP_system_case_study.pdf

Sexual exploitation is the use of children for the sexual satisfaction of adults. The basis of the exploitation is the unequal power relations between the child and the adult. The child is exploited for her/his youth and sexuality. UNCHR 1996

The majority of reports from WODA facilitators referred to girls living in Old Fadama. Old Fadama, known locally as Sodom and Gomorrah, is Ghana's largest informal settlement, with approximately 60,000 – 80,000 people; many of whom have emigrated from different regions of Ghana. It is situated in Agboghloshie in Central Accra.



Map of Old Fadama and Railways communities in context. Source: Grant (2006)

Theatre for a Change UK wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the numbers of girls being exploited, their experiences and their needs. It also wanted clear recommendations as to next steps. Theatre for a Change UK was cognisant that the WODA team are not experienced in Child Protection, and as a small CSO, have limited capacity to act.

In order to deliver this aim the following activities were carried out:

- Mapping of current relevant international and national policies responding to sexual exploitation.
- Consultation with a range of stakeholders, including agencies, community members and children, to gather information on the situation of girls being sexually exploited in Old Fadama area and the current services available to these girls.
- The development and delivery of four training workshops to eight WODA facilitators and staff to increase their capacity to address issues of child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Relevant International and National Policies

International

In 1990 Ghana ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Trafficking in Person report (TIP)² produced by the United States each year evaluates country situations and activities regarding human trafficking around the world. Each country is evaluated into tiers 1, 2, 2 watch list, 3. The ranking is based on the response of the government to recognise and address issues of trafficking, with tier 1 being fully compliant. Ghana is identified as a source, transit and destination country and currently holds tier 2 watch list status. The 2016 TIP report states that *'Ghanaian girls, and to a lesser extent boys, are subjected to sex trafficking in Ghana. Sex trafficking is prevalent in the Volta region and is growing in the oil-producing Western Region Ghanaian girls and young women from the rural northern regions move to urban centers as far south as Accra to seek work as porters; they are at risk for sex trafficking and forced labor. Ghanaian women and children are recruited and sent to the Middle East, West Africa, and Europe for forced labor and sex trafficking. Licensed and unlicensed agencies recruit young Ghanaian women for domestic service or hospitality industry jobs in Gulf countries. After their return, many of them reported being deceived, overworked, starved, abused, molested, and/or forced into prostitution.'*

National

The Republic of Ghana Children's Act 1998³ recognises a child as being someone up to the age of 18, with 18 also being the youngest legal age to marry; point 18 of the Children's Act states that children are in need of care and protection.

The Ghanaian Government is currently reviewing the Children Act 1998 and the Juvenile Justice Act 2003, for whilst legislation and policies are comprehensive, *'there is a disconnect between law and practice, and between the laws and community approaches to dealing with child and family welfare issues'*.⁴ A National Child Protection Committee has been set up to assist with this reform. Members of this Committee include representatives from key ministries, departments and agencies, notably

² <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/index.htm>

³ <http://www.unesco.org/education/edurights/media/docs/f7a7a002205e07fbf119bc00c8bd3208a438b37f.pdf>

⁴ Ibid 1

the Department of Children; Department of Social Welfare; Ministry of Local Government and Community Development; Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department; Ghana Education Services; Ghana Health Services; Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice; Ghana Police Service; Legal Aid Scheme; Judicial Services; National Planning Commission; and the Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. INGO members include PLAN Ghana, Action Aid, World Vision, International Needs and Defence for Children International. The United Nations agencies are also represented.

The 2014 Child and Family Welfare Policy acknowledges that *'physical and sexual abuse is of particular concern'* and that *'it is estimated that there are approximately 33,000 children living and/or working on the streets. The majority are girls and they remain particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and sexual exploitation.'*⁵

The operational plan to accompany the Child and Welfare Policy looks specifically to build the capacity of the Social Welfare response. It recommends that all child protection related issues should be reported by police to Social Welfare at the district level and when there is more than one district involved, such as in trafficking situations, reporting should be at the national level. The plan also looks to build alliances with civil society organisations, recognising their vital role in preventing and responding to harm to children and developing a comprehensive information management system to record and monitor data.

Consultation Evidence and Findings

Over the course of one week consultations were carried out with the following stakeholders:

Girls who live in Old Fadama

- Three girls aged 15 – 17 years old. All three now live in Old Fadama. The girls originated from Ivory Coast, the Ashanti Region Ghana, and the Central Region Ghana.

The girls were consulted in a group and in a safe confidential space with the support of one WODA staff member. The consultation was carried out in Ga and Twi, as these were the languages which the girls felt most comfortable speaking in.

Community members in Old Fadama

- ☐ One brothel owner
- ☐ One magajia⁶
- ☐ Two protectors⁷
- ☐ One male resident who lives in a rented room situated in a brothel
- ☐ Founder and Executive Director of CSO in Old Fadama

⁵ <http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/Child%20and%20Family%20Welfare%20Policy%20-%20Ghana.pdf>

⁶ Magajias are female leaders in Muslim communities mainly found in the urban migrant communities in the Southern and Northern regions of Ghana. They are usually selected by their communities, based on their leadership qualities.

⁷ A protector is the term used by female sex workers for men who are charged with keeping peace in the brothel. They are usually supported by the earnings of female sex workers.

Community members were consulted in a group in Old Fadama with the support of two WODA staff and two WODA facilitators who they knew. The consultation was carried out in Ga, Twi and English.

WODA - Community members and former sex workers from Old Fadama, Railways and Jamestown

- ☐ Eight women, now WODA facilitators and staff.

WODA facilitators were consulted during four workshops. Workshops took place in a confidential training space, and were carried out in Ga, Twi and English.

International non-governmental organisations

- ☐ Senior Child Protection specialists from the Ghana offices of two INGOs, both of which sit on the National Child Protection Committee.

INGOs were consulted individually in their organisation's premises with the support of a WODA staff member. The consultations were carried out in English.

Statutory agencies

- ☐ Two healthcare professionals from a local Government clinic, specialising in HIV and adolescent health
- ☐ Two Social Welfare officers
- ☐ Local Police Inspector
- ☐ Administrator and Station Officer at Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU)
- ☐ One representative from the Ministry of Gender

Statutory agencies were consulted individually or in pairs in their place of work with the support of a WODA staff member. The consultations were carried out in Ga, Twi and English.

All stakeholders were asked a range of questions during the consultations. The full list of questions is detailed in Appendix A. The answers and comments given from stakeholders have been collated in this report into five areas. Under each area the report outlines the main evidence from each group and draws together some key findings.

1. The age of a child

Stakeholders responded as follows when asked what age someone should be recognised as a child:

Girls

'4-5 is a child, 6-10 is older, 10-13 grown up.'

'6-8 is a child and 9 upwards older.'

'We know the legal age it up to 18 years, but these ages [referring to those mentioned above] are when a child is a child.'

Community members

'It can be from 12-17. Pregnancy is a factor that makes a female an adult.'

WODA

'A child is someone up to 18, but some children act older than their years.'

Statutory agencies

'It's up to the age of 18. It is someone 17 years and downwards.'

Findings: Whilst children and community members were unable to correctly define the age of a child, the majority of stakeholders within WODA, INGOs and statutory agencies were clear on the legal age of a child in Ghana. However, the topic brought about a lot of discussion within these groups, as different stakeholders debated whether a child is responsible for their behaviour and circumstances, and how this in turn changed the way they viewed a child and child sexual exploitation.

2. Knowledge of children being sexually exploited in Old Fadama

Stakeholders responded as follows when asked what they knew about the situation of children being sexually exploited in Old Fadama.

Girls

'The men who want sex with the girls in Old Fadama are aged 25 - 45. Some are thieves, drivers or drivers' mates. Some are working in offices, others own their own shops.'

'All are married – most have children, but because it's business you are doing you can't ask too many questions.'

'Sometimes you don't get the money and sometimes you do. Others give you money without sex and tell you to go home. Some have sex with you, beat you up and take the money back.'

'Protectors and magajias used to be there, but now it's mostly Nigerian girls and Nigerian protectors in Old Fadama. I have also heard about Ghanaian men that have travelled to Brazil and France.'

'Magajias bring the girls for sex and take the money, but most girls operate by themselves.'

Community members

'Some 40-50% of those selling sex in Old Fadama come from Old Fadama, others from the North, who are deceived. Many do not have the intention [of coming to sell sex].'

'200 plus kids are being brought from other regions. They are fresh, not from the area, I know because I live there. After a month they are not new/fresh anymore.'

'80% of these girls/young women [selling sex] are under the age of 18.'

WODA

'Most girls are from the North Volta region and some from the East of Ghana. Some are born in Old Fadama, but most girls are being brought into or come from other areas to Old Fadama.'

'The magajia operate by bringing girls for sex to Old Fadama and taking the money. 20 out of 100 girls are in these situations but the other 80 are operating by themselves.'

'In the Old Fadama area women are trafficking girls to sell sex. The girls are brought from Ashanti and Eastern Region saying they are selling fruit. The girls then bring the money to the woman. I saw a girl once crying in one of the train coaches, she told me that the magajia takes the money from her and she wants to have her own money, so she may move to another area. The girl came to Accra when she was 12 years old.'

'I've seen a lot of girls as young as 10 years old and I have tried to get them jobs washing dishes.'

CASE STUDY 1

Reported by a WODA facilitator who lives in Old Fadama

There's a woman who comes into Old Fadama to get girls for white men, men who are not Ghanaians. The woman lives in Accra and comes to Old Fadama to look for girls who are very young and innocent looking. The girls have to look young as that is what the white men like. They have to look 'fresh' with no tattoos or make up and then she takes them somewhere to have sex with white man. She goes with the girls. She gives the men oral sex and then the girls have penetrative sex. The woman then collects the money but she does not share it with the girls. This is still happening, as the woman approached my small sister. The woman still comes to find girls.

'One girl I saw and tried to help, I gave her money to do her hair and wanted to take care of her. I spoke to a man who I thought was her father, who agreed for me to take care of her, but the girl didn't want to stay, as she didn't want to lose her husband. It turned out the 'father' was the husband.'

'In the market Railway area [outside of Old Fadama], there are girls of 13-15 years of age. They mostly come at 11pm at night and lots on Sundays as the market is not on and people would not see the men having sex with the girls. I have seen men having sex with girls at the rubbish track and believe the girls are not from the area but different regions.'

'In the 'Circle' area [outside of Old Fadama], it is booming up with sex work. At this time girls are not shy, they are still there selling sex. One girl I met, the boyfriend/protector for her, comes back to get money. The girl is 16 years old and the boyfriend 22. I see lots; this is just one girl who I have spoken to. This is just one example, there are many. I have seen about 15 girls and others are hiding. There are a lot of 13-14 year olds and those less than 19 year olds now.'

INGOs

'I have heard about girls selling sex in Old Fadama so I drove to the area to investigate. I stayed in the car as it is too dangerous. But when I saw a girl, I approached her and asked her questions and she was selling sex.'

'I do not know about girls selling sex as we don't work in that area.'

Statutory agencies

'In one week approximately 25-30 people selling sex come to the clinic, approximately 10 of those are girls under 18 years

and 4 to 5 of them come from Old Fadama area, but originated from the North of Ghana.'

'Personally, I have not come across girls selling sex, but it's not good as they should be in school.'

'I have no knowledge about Old Fadama. We mostly deal with maintenance and custody issues or children who are missing or who have run away.'

'I have heard about girl porters being sexually abused, as the girls need to pay to sleep on the floor outside the shop. Also children going to the beach in the dark are vulnerable.'

'Children may live in communities that have dangerous adults, but they belong to the community and the community has to deal with it.'

'I'm unaware of the situation in Old Fadama and it is impossible for DOVVSU (Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit) to go into the community – they are not able to leave the building.'

'Girls have to come in to DOVVSU to be interviewed, or maybe it is better for girls to be referred to Social Welfare not DOVVSU? Social Welfare could then contact DOVVSU so that they could stop the perpetrators, it is important for DOVVSU to investigate to get the man's side of the story.'

'A case of sexual exploitation should be reported to DOVVSU, needing the child's name / age / address / phone number, along with a copy of their birth certification / ID. Cases of sexual exploitation of children are very rarely reported to us.'

'NGOs have a role to support sexually exploited children financially.'

Findings: There seems to be a difference in perception and knowledge between stakeholders. The girls, community members and WODA facilitators shared multiple examples of girls being sexually exploited within Old Fadama as well as girls being systematically exploited outside of the slum by white men. There is also strong evidence of internal trafficking to the slum from other regions of Ghana. The health professionals were aware of numerous cases of child sexual exploitation. However, there was less knowledge of the situation in Old Fadama from the police, Social Welfare and DOVVSU.

INGOs and statutory agencies raised their concerns about the risks of working in Old Fadama and the challenges of getting the community to tell them about issues of exploitation.

CASE STUDY 2

Reported by a nurse

A girl of 16 living with her mum and attending Junior High School had sex with her boyfriend and fell pregnant. When her mother found out she was pregnant she kicked her out of the house and she ended up living with her grandmother. After she had given birth she decided to go on the streets to 'hustle' because her grandmother was unable to care for her and her baby. Whilst on the streets she met a man who told her that unless she had sex soon after giving birth she would go mad. She believed him, had sex with him and became pregnant again. The man left her and she delivered her second baby, alone, at the age of 17. She felt unable to care for her second baby so she put the child in a polythene bag and prepared to dump it into the sea. She was seen by people on the beach and brought to the clinic with the baby. The baby was taken away from her. She then disappeared and the clinic staff do not know where she is.

3. Reasons for children being sexually exploited

Stakeholders responded as follows when asked what they believed were the reasons for children being sexually exploited in Old Fadama.

Girls

'If you need help you are told you will have to sell sex.'

'Some see their friends doing it, so they do it.'

'Because you are orphaned and need money to survive.'

'If your mother is a sex worker, then you do the same.'

'You see a lot of fancy things you want.'

'You hear stories about job offers and going to a better place, but mostly it's lies.'

'Girls in Old Fadama are not doing it because they are forced but because they need money.'

'If you have finished school, you cannot work until 18.'

'Jobs selling water is not enough money for families back home and so can result in selling sex.'

'They need money for themselves or family. Girls are not happy at home because of experiences they may have had.'

Community members

'Peer pressure. The girls see a lot of things they want and envy others.'

'Girls do not get pleasure - they need the money, or follow friends, they are curious or want to buy mobile phones.'

'They do not always come from poor backgrounds. Some are looking for a job, others are stubborn, bad behaviour, they don't listen, they have a bad spirit.'

'Getting work as a porter and then needing a protector so they can sleep in places, this leads to selling sex.'

WODA

'It is also believed by men who have sex with the girls, that they will do more sexual adventurous things than women.'

Statutory agencies

'Some girls are married at a very young age. Some are running away and others are coming for work or coming to Accra on buses with friends.'

'Girls are hungry.'

'Others are orphans and need money to survive.'

'A lack of education, poverty, broken homes, lack of care or time from caregiver.'

'Moving - coming to the city for work as head porters to earn money.'

Findings: Poverty is a key driver behind sexual exploitation. Girls see selling sex as a way to make more income than other employment opportunities. Girls often have financial responsibilities for their families. Girls in Old Fadama are often isolated, far from their home communities which increased their vulnerability. There seems to be a particular risk around girls coming to the city to work as head porters (venders who carry their good on their heads - locally known as kayayei) and then becoming exploited.⁸

Stakeholders from different groups used derogatory language to describe the girls. There was a lack of recognition that the sexual exploitation of children is child abuse and should not be confused with adults selling or exchanging sex.

4. Agencies you know about or who work in Old Fadama

Stakeholders responded as follows when asked what they knew about and which agencies work in Old Fadama.

Girls

'There are the police - but girls get arrested by them.'

'I knew some girls who were arrested at 8pm, taken by the police after having sex with men. The girls and the men were put in a police car, driven around and then the police went and collected the money from the brothel owner.'

'Police raid the brothel, then the brothel owner says you owe the money to them to pay the police and because you need to rent somewhere you have to stay in the brothel selling sex to pay off the money.'

'Community health nurses sometimes come to Old Fadama to give education.'

'We get condoms from pharmacies and people in the community who sell condoms. A lot of men like using condoms, as they don't want to get an infection, sex with a condom cost 15 cedis, sex without a condom would be plenty money, 150 cedis.'

'There are no agencies in Old Fadama.'

'I would not call agencies but my own family for protection.'

Community members

'Chiefs can be contacted by police to deal with an issue.'

WODA

⁸ <http://vision2017.csis.org/accras-kayayei/>

'I've heard of SCEF⁹, Chance for Children¹⁰, Government shelters and DOVVSU – family counselling services.'

'Ussher clinic¹¹, Iran clinic¹², 'Pro-link¹³ and AGRED¹⁴.'

'I do not know about Social Welfare, do they still exist?'

'There's a member of the community who people go to when they need assistance with police or legal issues. Payment is in kind. You have to give him sex whether you are a woman or a girl.'

INGOs

'Social Welfare have not got the capacity, more staff are needed.'

'There are not sufficient homes to send the children to or the skills to look after them.'

Statutory agencies

'We need support from Social Welfare for children, but do not get it.'

Findings: There is a lack of services for residents of Old Fadama. There are serious reports of members of the police force acting inappropriately in Old Fadama which need further investigation. For some statutory agencies that were operating in nearby Jamestown, there seemed real frustration with other statutory agencies lack of response and interest in this issue. Many stakeholders, including statutory agencies, were unclear as to what the procedures were for referring and protecting children. Local CSOs and small NGOs are providing some support but they are unable to support all vulnerable girls and their remits often focus on other geographical areas of Accra, rather than solely on Old Fadama. Currently, there do not seem to be any large INGOs working on the issue of child protection and child sexual exploitation in Old Fadama.

5. Ideas and recommendations to stop sexual exploitation

Stakeholders responded as follows when asked about their ideas and recommendations to stop sexual exploitation.

Girls

'To be able to go back to school or get training for jobs.'

Community members

'The government need to provide money to stop people moving to the city.'

'There could be awareness raising activities in the community, such as film screenings to raise awareness of rape, domestic violence and where to seek advice from.'

'I think there should be mobile van providing legal advice - Legal on Wheels.'

⁹ <http://www.scef-international.org/>

¹⁰ <http://www.chance-for-children.org/en/>

¹¹ <http://ghanahospitals.org/regions/fdetails.php?id=1595&r=g.%20accra>

¹² <http://ghanahospitals.org/regions/fdetails.php?id=1652&r=g.%20accra>

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/Pro-Link-Organization-Ghana-1193009420729229/>

¹⁴ <http://www.agreds.org/>

'Rehabilitation centres for children to go to or be placed in, maybe for three months, to learn models of change or learn skills.'

WODA

'Ask the girls what their needs were and support them.'

'Take the young person back to the area where they came from.'

Statutory agencies

'Once elections have happened hopefully decisions will be made as to what will happen to Old Fadama. Much of Old Fadama may be torn down and replaced by better housing.'

'Put a children's playground in Old Fadama.'

'All agencies and children to be given information about adolescent health care.'

'Free condoms to be given.'

'There needs to be better working together and coordination between agencies.'

'The work needs to start where the girls are coming from.'

'Social Welfare need to investigate and find out about the girl's home life, education etc.'

'Girls should not be married under age.'

'Social workers need funding to be able to move around and visit children and families; it should not have to come from not their own pocket.'

'There is a need for more social workers, logistics and equipment.'

'There needs to be a referral protocol/mechanism for children. At the moment, the procedures to transfer or get approval from senior management are too slow and needs to be quicker. There is far too much bureaucracy.'

'NGOs should provide education materials, adopt a school or provide vocational skills i.e. sewing, hairdressing to empower girls.'

Findings: All stakeholders had ideas about what needed to be done to reduce levels of sexual exploitation. Many ideas included the provision of more services in Old Fadama, particularly around training, education and health support for girls. There were also a number of stakeholders who wanted there to be a focus on raising issues around exploitation and trafficking in the source communities. Finally, there was a demand from agencies for more funding and support so that they can take a more hands on role.

Report Recommendations

With the recent change of Government in Ghana there may be decisions made about the future of Old Fadama that will impact the levels of resources which will be inputted into this community. The recommendations will need to be considered in light of these potential changes.

- Whilst it is clear that sexual exploitation of girls in Old Fadama is highly prevalent, further consultation and evidence is needed to better establish the numbers of girls who are currently being sexually exploited.
- Whilst this scoping report concentrated on girls, it is highly likely that boys are also victims of sexual exploitation; and further work is needed to better understand and meet their needs.
- WODA staff and facilitators hold a unique position. They are known and trusted by community members and key stakeholders in Old Fadama. WODA does not have the capacity to provide sexually exploited children and at risk children with the range of services they require. However, WODA have the potential to gather evidence and data of sexual exploitation and share this with the National Child Protection Committee, providing figures, trends and case studies with the aim of improving procedures and services for girls being exploited. WODA also has the potential to refer individual cases to the appropriate authorities and support children to access statutory services, as well as follow up with children on actions taken.
- In order to achieve the recommendations above, the WODA team would require further training, deepening their understanding of child sexual exploitation and the current best practice referral procedures in Ghana. WODA would also need to access funding to pay for these additional activities.
- The National Child Protection Committee can play a key role in promoting best practice, advising on resource allocation, supporting collaboration between the INGOs, NGO and CSO communities, and holding statutory agencies to account.
- The National Child Protection Committee can help to ensure that Social Welfare and Community Development Officers, who are responsible for the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy in Old Fadama, are supported to take part in the planned national orientation training.
- Levels of understanding of child sexual exploitation and response vary significantly between different statutory agencies. Further training is needed to ensure children are identified and protected appropriately. This training must also enable agencies to consider the risk a child is exposed to from potential harmful adults and environment factors; for example, children whose mothers are currently working as sex workers.
- There is a need to address the lack of coordination between statutory agencies, ensuring that processes are transparent, efficient and effective.
- There is a need for the police, DOVVSU, Social Welfare and health services to have a stronger presence on the ground in Old Fadama, providing appropriate protection, health and support services for young people, and investigating and prosecuting the perpetrators of abuse.
- Evidence from girls in Old Fadama suggests there is urgent need for a thorough investigation into corruption and treatment of girls by members of the police force.
- As this report has uncovered evidence of cross border sexual exploitation and trafficking, there is a need for statutory agencies to report intelligence regarding perpetrators of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to the Ghanaian Police and Trafficking Unit, as well as international trafficking units.

- There is a need for greater education and vocational skills opportunities to be made accessible for young people from Old Fadama. This could potentially be offered by the INGO community, alongside appropriate statutory agencies.
- There is a need for safe accommodation for children at risk of sexual exploitation. This could potentially be offered by the INGO community, alongside appropriate statutory agencies.
- There is a need for greater education and awareness within the Old Fadama community, including brothel owners, protectors and magajia, about the legal age of a child, the definition and legal status of exploitation, and ways to report abuse. This could potentially be offered by the INGO community, alongside appropriate statutory agencies.
- All stakeholders suggested tackling the problem at the source, by raising awareness of the prevalence and risk of trafficking within communities in other regions. This could potentially be offered by the INGO community, alongside appropriate statutory agencies. This service needs to be complemented with clear guidance for reporting trafficking and exploitation to the appropriate authority.

The report highlights the vulnerabilities and needs of girls in Old Fadama. It recommends that stakeholders, including the Ministry of Gender, statutory agencies and civil society take urgent action to protect children from sexual exploitation and prosecute the perpetrators of abuse.

For further information please contact:

Susana Dartey, Project Manager, Women of Dignity Alliance Ghana, susana.dartey@gmail.com

Fiona Morrell, Head of Grants, Theatre for a Change UK, fiona.morrell@tfacafrika.com

Mandy John-Baptise has been working to protect vulnerable children since 1988. She is currently the Children Services Manager at NSPCC, UK. As an independent child protection trainer and consultant she has worked with a range of CSOs, INGOs, statutory agencies and governments in The Gambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Vietnam, China, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Romania and France. She has an MA in International Social Work and Refugee Studies.

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The Children's Act Ghana 1989:

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/56216/65194/E98GHA01.htm>

UNCRC 1989: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

Countries signed up to the UNCRC: https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30229.html

Trafficking in Person report 2016: <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/>

Child and Family Welfare Policy 2014:

<http://www.ovcghana.org/docs/GHANASChildandFamilyWelfarePolicy1.pdf>

Child Protection Baseline Research Summary Report 2014: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/ndpc-static/CACHES/PUBLICATIONS/2015/08/23/CP+BaselineResearchSummary.pdf>

Protecting the Rights of Children in Ghana:

<http://www.cepa.org.gh/researchpapers/Protecting69.pdf>

Empowering Queen Mothers and Magajias in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS CEDPA/Ghana:

http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnact917.pdf

Building a national child protection system in Ghana: From evidence to policy and practice, 2015:

https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Ghana_CP_system_case_study.pdf

CSIS Task Force on Women's and Family Health: Accra's Kayayei: <http://vision2017.csis.org/accras-kayayei/>

Appendix A: Consultation Questions

Questions for children:

Name (optional / pseudonym)

Age

Ethnicity/religion

Home address

School experience

Current place of stay

Birth Family or adopted family:

Relatives

Family members and your position (e.g. 1st child)

Do you have any children?

Is there anyone else to care for?

Family financial situation

Family contacts you have

Present situation:

Who are you living or staying with?

Have you had to move from the area you grew up to Old Fadama?

What were the reasons you had to move?

How did you move?

How do you survive?

In Old Fadama are there girls/ young people having to sell any form of sex?

What are the reasons for someone having to sell sex? E.G. survival, no choice, poverty, caring for others, in debt

Are you or have you had to sell or exchange any form of sex?

What are the reasons you have or had to sell or exchange sex?

If so, how long have you had to do this?

What was the first time you had to sell or exchange sex?

Have you been offered opportunities to move to another area or country to sell sex?

Who are the people that want to buy sex from young girls?

Support:

What do you do to make yourself feel good?

Who do you go to when you need help?

What skills and strengths do you have?

How do you take care of yourself?

What is the age of a child in Ghana?

What agencies do you know of or go to for support?

Future:

What do you think needs to happen to help girls or young people?

What do you need to make a difference to your future?

Who can help you?

Are there agencies that can help you?

If there are not, if you could design a service to help you or other young people having to sell or exchange sex, what would that service need to do or offer?

What would you suggest a service needs to do to help young people not to have to sell sex?

Questions for community members / WODA / INGOs / statutory agencies:

Name (optional / pseudonym)
Profession
Job title
The organisation work for
Place of work
Responsibilities

Experience and knowledge:

What would you say your professional expertise is in?
Do you have any work experience with children?
What is the age of a child in Ghanaian law?
Is there any legislation in Ghana about children being sexual abused or sexual exploited?
What are your views on children being sexually exploited/having to sell sex?
Are you aware of the Child and Family Welfare Policy launched this year?

Old Fadama:

Do you have any work experience or knowledge about of Old Fadama?
What would you say are the key areas of concern for Old Fadama?
Do you have any knowledge about the selling of sex in Old Fadama?
If so, what do you think the issues are?
Reports say there are children under 18 selling sex in that area; do you have any knowledge of this?
What views / information can you provide?
Do you know who these children/young people are or where they come from?
Do you know if children (under 18s) are being moved from one area of Ghana to another? Or moved to another country to sell sex?
What do you think needs to happen to address this?

Working Together:

What agencies work in Old Fadama with people selling sex?
What agencies work with children?
Who needs to be working together to address these issues and concerns of Old Fadama?
What agencies need to work there to support those selling sex?
Can you identify or suggest what agencies need to work with those under 18 selling sex?

Future:

What suggestions do you have in addressing the issue of children having to sell and exchange sex in Old Fadama?
What services do you suggest need to work in Old Fadama to work with children under 18?
From a policy or legal position, what could help to bring change for children having to sell sex in Old Fadama?