CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA: TRANSFORMING SOCIAL NORMS AND STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION IN MARSABIT

RESEARCH REPORT
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PREPARED BY :

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AHTCPU	Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit
BMC	Border Management Committees
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviews
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CRC	Child Right Club
CRPs	Community Resource Persons
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTiP	Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act
DCI	Directorate of Criminal Investigation
DCS	Department of Children Services
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
HAART	Awareness Against Human Trafficking
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
NCRC	National Crime Research Centre
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
QC	Quality Controls
SOA	Sexual Offences Act
SND	Strategies for Northern Development
TiP	Trafficking in Persons
TdH NL	Terre des Hommes Netherlands
VoT	Victims of Trafficking

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION (BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA) TO TRANSFORM SOCIAL NORMS AND STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN MARSABIT, NORTHERN KENYA

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The pastoralist communities of Marsabit County in Northern Kenya continue to grapple with the urgent issue of child exploitation, specifically concerning child trafficking and unsafe migration. In response to this challenge, Strategies for Northern Development, in partnership with Terre des Hommes Netherlands and Terre des Hommes Germany, and with financial backing from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany (BMZ), launched a 36-month project, "Child Protection through Capacity Building, Transformation of Social Norms, and Strengthening of Protection Mechanisms in Northern Kenya."

The project is designed to contribute to the elimination of all forms of child exploitation and unsafe migration affecting children aged 5-18 years in Moyale Sub-County. The project's overarching goal is to bring about systemic change by strengthening child protection systems at various levels in Kenya. These strengthened systems aim to prevent and address the exploitation of children while fostering their physical, mental, and social well-being. To this end, TdH in partnership with SND commissioned a study to investigate the structural drivers and enablers of child trafficking and unsafe migration and explore the demographics of children at risk and survivors, the local capacity for effectively addressing or combating child trafficking and unsafe migration, the legislative and policy framework and reinforcement measures in place by the government to combat child trafficking and unsafe migration, the knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to child trafficking and unsafe migration, with a focus on sexual exploitation of children and the capacity of community-based child protection systems in combating child trafficking and unsafe migration, in Marsabit County.

The study employed a participatory mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques. The qualitative methodology included Key Informant Interviews, (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and case studies while quantitatively household surveys were conducted with parents/caregivers, relevant government stakeholders and children. The research was conducted in accordance with ethical standards, ensuring the safety, privacy, and informed consent of all participants. The methodology was trauma-informed and child-centred, ensuring the safety and well-being of the participants. The study design comprised of the following elements:

- **AWARENESS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING:**

High awareness levels were reported across all respondent categories, with 100% of government stakeholders, 92% of parents, and 82% of children acknowledging their awareness. However, there was lack of clarity and consistency in the community's understanding of child trafficking, due to respondents' tendency to confuse it with other, potentially related offenses.

- **AWARENESS OF UNSAFE MIGRATION:**

The community exhibited low awareness of unsafe migration, and there was limited comprehension of the risks associated with the migration process. Despite various motivations for migration being mentioned, overall awareness remained lacking.

- **REACTIONS TO CHILD TRAFFICKING NEWS:**

When respondents encountered information or news related to child trafficking in their local community or region, emotional reactions were notable. Parents (54%) and children (50%) expressed shock and disbelief, others, parents (19%) and children (28%) sympathized/empathized with the victims. These emotional responses underscore the profound impact child trafficking has on individuals and communities, emphasizing the need for effective prevention, protection, and rehabilitation measures.

- **SIGNS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING:**

According to surveyed parents and caregivers, the top three signs that a child is being trafficked include fear to speak (40%), a change in behavior (38%), and sudden disappearances (37%). Other key signs identified include isolation, broken promises, lack of personal possessions, and lack of identification documents.

- **PERCEIVED SAFETY LEVELS:**

While 52% of surveyed parents/caregivers believed that children in their region are either very safe (22%) or safe (30%) from child trafficking and unsafe migration, 30% expressed some level of lack of safety, including feeling unsafe (24%) and very unsafe (6%). This indicates a considerable proportion of apprehension among parents/caregivers about the vulnerability of children to these risks.

- **SIGNS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:**

The key signs that a child is undergoing sexual

exploitation or being sexually exploited, as identified by surveyed parents/caregivers, include running away from home or homelessness (44%), sudden behavioral changes (35%), school absenteeism (35%), early marriages (34%), and child pregnancy/parenthood (34%).

• RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING:

In cases of child trafficking and sexual exploitation, responsibility is attributed to various factors and individuals according to feedback from parents/caregivers. The main party blamed, as per 61% of respondents, is parents/caregivers who may be considered accountable if they enable exploitation. Other factors include a lack of awareness and education (43%), community members who fail to report concerns (39%), traffickers and exploiters (30%), and economic factors, particularly poverty (27%).

• COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS:

A majority (87%) of the surveyed parents and caregivers reported never participating in any community programs or initiatives aimed at preventing child trafficking. This lack of community engagement underscores the need for increased involvement in prevention efforts.

• FREQUENCY OF DISCUSSIONS:

More than half (54%) of the surveyed parents/caregivers either infrequently (46%) or very infrequently (8%) discuss child trafficking and sexual exploitation in their families. Similarly, at the community level, 45% of parents/caregivers indicated infrequent discussions (37%), or very infrequent discussions (8%), while 31% admitted to discussing these issues either very frequently (15%) or frequently (16%).

• TYPES OF TRAFFICKING IN MOYALE:

Moyale is affected by both internal and cross-border child trafficking. The study found that 91% of the child trafficking cases in Moyale are cross-border related, mainly involving victims with Ethiopian origin. Internal trafficking occurs when children are relocated within Marsabit County, while cross-border trafficking involves illegal relocation to or from Kenya.

• CAUSES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING:

The cross-cutting leading cause of child trafficking and unsafe migration identified by both government agencies and parents/caregivers is economic deprivation. Lack of livelihood opportunities, contributing to limited future prospects, was highlighted as the primary cause, especially in the arid region of Marsabit.

• PARENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS EDUCATION:

The study noted that some parents didn't recognize the importance of education for their children and instead opted to make them work in farms, grazing cattle, or sent them to relatives and/or strangers to work as domestic workers. Mandatory education laws were circumvented by hiring other children for cheap labor. Additionally, some children were forced into early marriages to maintain family lineage, especially girls who were seen as a source of income through dowries.

• CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS:

In terms of the common characteristics of victims of child trafficking in Moyale, a majority of the surveyed respondents noted that females (54%) were victimized more than males (46%). Additionally, children aged below 12 years (53%) were more vulnerable compared to those aged 13 – 18 years (47%). Interestingly, children with both parents (35%) had a slightly higher victimization rate compared to those of a single parent (33%) or orphaned (32%).

• RECENT CASES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING:

Regarding the most recent cases, the study found that almost half (49%) of the victims were from Moyale. These victims were mostly migrated to Ethiopia (30%), Nairobi (25%), and within Moyale (15%). The diverse regional and ethnic backgrounds of child trafficking victims were highlighted, emphasizing the cross-border and multi-ethnic nature of this issue in the region.

• PERPETRATORS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING:

The Perpetrators were likely to be neighbours (37%) and known to the victim, while a smaller percentage were unrelated (18%).

• PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDREN REGARDING PERPETRATORS:

Surveyed children thought that the main perpetrators responsible for child trafficking/unsafe migration offenses are mainly strangers (59%), businesses (53%), criminals (41%), and traffickers. This perception was consistent across all age groups.

• APPROACHES TO RECRUIT CHILDREN:

Half (50%) of the surveyed children mentioned that they or their siblings/friends have been approached with requests to leave home and promised work or a good life. This suggests a prevalent pattern of attempts to recruit children into potentially exploitative or dangerous situations, such as child trafficking.

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- **FORMS OF EXPLOITATION:**

Child trafficking victims endure multiple forms of exploitation, with labor exploitation being the predominant form affecting 64% of these vulnerable children. Organ trafficking follows closely behind at 46%, marking a perilous practice. Begging, slavery/servitude, and forced marriage collectively constitute the third most prevalent form of exploitation at 41%. Sexual exploitation affects 34% of the victims, posing a severe risk to their physical and psychological well-being. Lastly, forced military recruitment, though less common at 11%, remains a deeply concerning practice.

- **CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS:**

When it comes to assessing the capacity of the surveyed parents and caregivers to protect their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration, 22% lacked the capacity, with 17% having low capacity and 5% having no capacity. However, 75% acknowledged to some extent that they exhibit the capacity, with 48% having high capacity and 27% having moderate capacity. Similarly, 24% of surveyed children had either low capacity (18%) or no capacity (6%), while 64% exhibited the capacity, with 35% having high capacity and 29% having moderate capacity.

- **PERCEPTIONS OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS**

Among the surveyed parents/caregivers, diverse perceptions exist regarding the capacity of local administrative leaders, such as chiefs, to protect children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. Three in every ten (30%) of parents/caregivers said there was no capacity, with 22% having low capacity and 8% having no capacity. Conversely, 69% positively rated high capacity (29%) and moderate capacity (30%) in their local administrative leaders in addressing child trafficking and unsafe migration.

- **PERCEPTIONS OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS:**

A significant proportion (41%) of the parents/caregivers indicated that their county administrative leaders, such as the governor and county commissioners, lack the capacity to protect their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. On the other hand, 43% believed that their county administrative leaders exhibited the capacity to some extent, with 26% having high capacity and 17% having moderate capacity.

- **RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOLSTER CAPACITY:**

To bolster the capacity of parents and caregivers in safeguarding their children from child trafficking and unsafe migration in the community, several key recommendations emerged. A significant proportion (38%) advocated for the implementation of educational workshops aimed at raising awareness and equipping parents and caregivers with the knowledge required to recognize, prevent, and respond to these threats.

- **GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVES ON PROCEDURES:**

In contrast to the findings among surveyed parents, government stakeholders in Kenya displayed a notably different perspective regarding formal procedures or protocols for the identification of children who are victims of unsafe migration and child trafficking. A majority (82%) of government stakeholders acknowledged the existence of such formal procedures or protocols.

- **COMMUNITY-GOVERNMENT DISCONNECT:**

Comparisons between the categories of respondents indicate a disconnect between the community and government officers or the official channels that are supposed to ensure protection of vulnerable groups and offer safeguards against trafficking and unsafe migration. Given the high mentions made of the chief, communities experience government machinery through the chief, emphasizing the chief's potential role in designing programs that address child trafficking in the study region.

- **GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS AND CASE NUMBERS:**

Study findings revealed that a significant proportion (45%) of the government stakeholders received less than ten cases of child trafficking and unsafe migration on a monthly basis. This distribution of cases suggests that the prevalence of child trafficking and unsafe migration varies across different regions or jurisdictions, requiring tailored efforts for effective responses and protection of children at risk.

- **GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS' TRAINING:**

While a majority (55%) of the surveyed government executives admitted that they or their colleagues had received training on how to identify and address offenses related to child trafficking and unsafe migration, a significant proportion (45%) had not received training. Of those who had training, 67% received it courtesy of a national/county seminar training, whereas 33% obtained it in the line of duty.

- **PERCEIVED GAPS IN CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS:**

Surveyed parents and caregivers who rated the

existing child protection systems as poor or very poor pointed out several significant gaps. The most prominent concern was the perceived inaction within the system, cited by half (50%) of the respondents. Additionally, issues such as a lack of social education and illiteracy, insufficient support, financial constraints, inadequate laws, and the presence of fear were identified as barriers to effective child trafficking prevention.

- **AWARENESS OF FORMAL PROCEDURES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL:**

A majority (96%) of the surveyed parents admitted that they were not aware of formal procedures or protocols in place at the community level for the identification of children victims of unsafe migration and child trafficking in Moyale. On the flip side, 4% were aware, of these 44% rated their effectiveness as poor (38%) or very poor (6%), while equally 44% rated them as good or very good.

- **AWARENESS OF REFERRAL AND REDRESS MECHANISMS:**

A majority (94%) of the surveyed parents/caregivers admitted that they were not aware of referral and redress mechanisms for identified victims of child trafficking and unsafe migration in the area. Conversely, 6% were aware, and of these, 37% rated their adequacy as low (32%) or very poor (5%), in dealing with the child trafficking situation in this area. On the other hand, 55% rated them as highly adequate.

- **CHALLENGES AND GAPS IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS:**

The study established that the main challenges/gaps that hamper the fight against trafficking and unsafe migration mainly include a lack of or inadequate community engagement (61%), inadequate technical capacity of duty bearers such as the police and child protection officers (59%), inadequate financial resources (53%), and poor coordination between the various government and non-governmental agencies involved in addressing child trafficking and unsafe migration issues.

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES:**

Three in every five (60%) of the surveyed respondents highlighted that the community could be engaged and involved in curbing child trafficking and unsafe migration through awareness creation and advocacy. Other mentions included capacity building/training (22%) and involvement in the design and development of policies and frameworks (18%).

PATTERNS, FORMS OF EXPLOITATION, AND CHALLENGES IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Programmatic Recommendations

1. Address the lack of clarity on child trafficking through targeted awareness programs, involving collaboration between government bodies, NGOs, and community leaders. Emphasize real-life consequences and risks, engaging parents and caregivers for a more accurate community understanding.

2. Initiate community-led awareness and advocacy programs to challenge harmful norms predisposing children to trafficking. Foster open dialogues, workshops, and campaigns tailored to each community's cultural context, encouraging active participation in dismantling detrimental practices.

3. Directly engage communities and chiefs in advocacy for response mechanisms, particularly at the grassroots level, and involve children more directly in efforts due to limited accessibility of government systems.

4. Tailor support and educational initiatives for parents/caregivers based on self-perceived capacity levels. Implement capacity assessments and enhance Child Rights Clubs to empower caregivers and protect children from trafficking.

5. Establish a close-knit network involving stakeholders at various levels to coordinate efforts and develop collaborative strategies for tackling child trafficking challenges.

6. Address the cycle of victims becoming traffickers through a multifaceted approach, including economic empowerment, legal protection, awareness, and cultural norm transformation.

7. Utilize household methodologies to increase awareness and prevent child trafficking within homes and communities, involving all household members in understanding and preventing trafficking factors.

8. Integrate child participation as a central element in programs, empowering children with knowledge and skills to resist exploitation. Promote vigilance and intervention measures to safeguard vulnerable children.

Government/Policy Recommendations

1. Monitor online activities to protect children from online exploitation, recognizing technology as a tool empowering traffickers.

2. Enhance channels for reporting incidents related to child trafficking, ensuring operational child help desks, suggestion boxes, and adequate child protection officers.

3. Evaluate and support local administrative leaders to ensure effective measures for protecting children from trafficking.

4. Establish well-equipped referral services for recognized victims, including rehabilitation and psychosocial support.

5. Launch community-level campaigns to educate the public about pathways for seeking justice in child trafficking cases.

6. Enhance anti-trafficking cooperation regionally and internationally, focusing on information sharing, joint intelligence activities, and coordinated law enforcement strategies.

7. Strengthen border control measures and regional cooperation to address child trafficking and unsafe migration through unofficial crossing points.

8. Increase collaboration between the Counter Trafficking Advisory Committee and child protection stakeholders at national and county levels. Develop initiatives to counter child trafficking and improve reporting and prosecution rates.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

1. Implement empowerment programs protecting children from various forms of exploitation, including labor, organ trafficking, begging, slavery, forced marriage, and forced military recruitment.

2. Provide targeted support, awareness campaigns, and educational programs for children and caregivers lacking capacity to protect against trafficking and unsafe migration.

3. Address challenges and gaps in the fight against child trafficking, including inadequate community engagement, technical capacity gaps, financial constraints, poor coordination, and legal and policy gaps.

4. Focus on community-level awareness campaigns, collaborate with government agencies for capacity-building programs, and facilitate community dialogues to align initiatives with community needs.

5. Prioritize community educational workshops to enhance awareness among parents and caregivers, empowering them to advocate for child protection policies.

Parents and Teachers:

1. Actively participate in educational workshops, training programs, and awareness campaigns to challenge harmful norms and protect children.

Children

1. Actively engage in educational initiatives and awareness campaigns, be vigilant against recruitment attempts, and contribute to programs protecting them from potential exploitation.

Areas for Additional Research

1. *Conduct further research to enhance understanding of child trafficking and unsafe migration, including evaluating the effectiveness of awareness campaigns, reasons for limited parental participation, the role of the internet, recruitment*

INTRODUCTION

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION (BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA) TO TRANSFORM SOCIAL NORMS AND STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN MARSABIT, NORTHERN KENYA

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1.1   PROJECT BACKGROUND

Child exploitation, particularly child trafficking and unsafe migration, remains a pressing issue within the pastoralist communities of Marsabit County in Northern Kenya. In response to this situation, Strategies for Northern Development, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes Netherlands and Terre des Hommes Germany, and with financial support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany (BMZ), initiated a 36-month project. This project aims to contribute to the eradication of all forms of child exploitation and unsafe migration affecting children aged 5-18 years in Moyale Sub- County.

The project aims at realising systemic change by strengthening the child protection systems in Kenya (National, County, Sub-County and Community) that prevent and respond to the exploitation of children while promoting their physical, mental, and social well-being. This will be achieved by engaging all stakeholders (Department of Children Services (DCS), private sector, Border Management Committees (BMC), members of Child Right Clubs (CRC), Community

Resource Persons (CRPs), community elders, youth, women groups, local media houses, law enforcement agencies and CSOs.

The Desired Results Of The Project Include:

a. *To influence the elimination of harmful traditional practices and promote the adoption of positive norms that reduce child trafficking and unsafe migration of children*

b. *To strengthen the capacity of existing child protection institutions and structures to implement policies and mechanisms that effectively prevent and respond to child exploitation.*

c. *To improve evidence-based program design, knowledge management, and advocacy in the fight against child exploitation in Northern Kenya*

d. *To facilitate coordination, collaboration, networking, and partnerships to effectively serve children at risk or victims of child rights violations.*

1.2   SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child trafficking as the act of taking children out of their protective environment and preying on their vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation. ILO Convention No. 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) classifies trafficking among "forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery" and thereby a WFCL to be eliminated as a matter of urgency, irrespective of the country's level of development . In essence, child trafficking is a grave violation of human rights and a global concern, affecting millions of children worldwide. Kenya, like many other countries, grapples with the issue of child trafficking, with children being subjected to various forms of exploitation, including forced labour, sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

Under the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act of 2010 - sections 3 and 4; A person commits the offence of trafficking in persons when the person recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives another person for the purpose of exploitation by means of—

(a) threat or use of force or other forms of coercion; (b) abduction; (c) fraud deception; (e) abuse of power or of position of vulnerability; (f) giving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of the victim of trafficking in persons; or (g) giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person.

(3) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purposes of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set out in subsection (1) of this Act.

(4) An act of trafficking in persons may be committed internally within the borders of Kenya or internationally across the borders of Kenya.

(*5) A person who traffics another person, for the purpose of exploitation, commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years or to a fine of not less than thirty million shillings or to both and upon subsequent conviction,*

to imprisonment for life.

(6) A person who finances, controls, aids or abets the commission of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty years or to a fine of not less than thirty million shillings or to both and upon subsequent conviction, to imprisonment for life. Acts that promote child

trafficking under section 4 of the act include

(1) A person who for the purpose of trafficking in persons— (a) adopts a child or offers a child for adoption; (b) fosters a child or offers a child for fostering; or (c) offers guardianship to a child or offers a child for guardianship, commits an offence.

1.3   STUDY SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The research aimed to establish the trends of child trafficking and unsafe migration in Marsabit County, Moyale Sub County, including determining the specific child trafficking risks, drivers and enablers. The study thus delved deeper into the specifics of child trafficking in Marsabit County capturing the context, push and pull factors that contribute to this phenomenon, any (changes) trends, pathways to child trafficking, demographics of children/youth, forms of exploitation related to child trafficking, common perpetrators, recruitment patterns, source, routes and destination, age, sex/gender, socio-economic background of both child victims as well as the perpetrators. The

research findings will inform efforts by TdH NL and SND to strengthen child protection mechanisms and adopt a targeted approach in programming and advocacy to mitigate child exploitation. The findings and evidence generated from the research will be published, disseminated and used to inform local and national level advocacy, as well as regional level in case of any cross-border child protection policy or practice. Moreover, findings of the research will be shared with key stakeholders (Sub County and County Government Officials), the communities and children for engagement and discussions on topical issues emanating from the research.

1.3.1 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The study was guided by the following objectives

1. To investigate the structural drivers and enablers of child trafficking and unsafe migration in Marsabit County and explore the demographics of children at risk and survivors.

2. To assess the local capacity for effectively addressing or combating child trafficking and unsafe migration in Marsabit County.

3. To examine the legislative and policy framework and reinforcement measures in place by the government to combat child trafficking and unsafe migration in Marsabit County.

4. To analyse the knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to child trafficking and unsafe migration, with a focus on sexual exploitation of children.

5. To explore the capacity of community-based child protection systems in combating child trafficking and unsafe migration in Marsabit County.

1.3.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research sought to respond to the following key questions:

1. *What push and pull factors contribute to children in Moyale, Marsabit County being at risk of child trafficking and unsafe migration?*

2. *What are the pathways to trafficking of children, including recruitment patterns, sources, routes, main recruiters, and destinations?*

3. *What are the key risk factors and forms of exploitation faced by child survivors of trafficking and unsafe migration in Moyale, Marsabit County?*

4. *What is the capacity of the local community and the County government in addressing or combating child trafficking and unsafe migration in Marsabit County?*

5. *What are the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding child trafficking and unsafe migration among community members, state actors, and non-state actors in Moyale, Marsabit County?*

6. *What key messaging is recommended for advocacy addressing child trafficking and unsafe migration at the local and national levels?*

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2.0 STUDY DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 APPROACH

The study adopted a participatory, mixed method approach, and ensured inclusion of all programme stakeholders such as the Department of Children Services (DCS), Directorate of Criminal Investigation -Anti-Human Trafficking & Child Protection Unit (DCI – AHTCPU), Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTiP) Secretariat, Law enforcement agencies - Police and judiciary, Border management committees (BMC), Representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs), Members of child right clubs (CRC), Teachers/ heads of schools (Public and private), Child Protection officers in government offices at national and county level, Children's Courts Representatives (county level), Community Resource Persons (CRPs) e.g. religious leaders, elders,

Local administration leaders, business community leaders, youth, women and men group leaders, Parents of child survivors of trafficking, Local Media to ensure meaningful participation while prioritizing child safeguarding. PARS used triangulation, to verify and cross-check data using several pieces of evidence rather than relying only on one approach. This ensured that credible, relevant, reliable, and useful information was gathered. Secondary data was also collected during literature review while primary data was collected using qualitative and quantitative data collection methods

2.2 METHODOLOGY

Mixed methods of data collection were utilized in the study, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques. The qualitative methodology included Key Informant Interviews, (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and case studies while quantitatively household surveys were conducted with parents/caregivers and children. The research was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards, ensuring the safety, privacy, and informed consent of all participants. The methodology was trauma-informed and child-centred, ensuring the safety and well-being of the participants. The study design comprised of the following elements

1. Data Collection:

The study employed various data collection tools and strategies, such as KIIs, FGDs, household surveys, and case studies. These allowed meaningful participation of children, families, and communities. This also ensured triangulation of findings for effectiveness.

2. Ethical Considerations:

The study design ensured adherence to the universally accepted ethical standards for involving children in research. This included voluntary participation which allowed children the opportunity to withdraw at any given point, ensuring the safety of children, protecting their privacy and anonymity, securing informed consent, and having protocols in place to respond to disclosures of harm or abuse.

3. Risk Assessment and Mitigation:

A risk assessment and mitigation plan was developed in partnership with TDH and SND to ensure efficient implementation of the study, as well as the safety and well-being of the participants, particularly children.

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#	Risk Assessment	Mitigation Strategies
1.	• Consideration of physical, psychological, and social risks associated with the study, especially when involving children. • Identification of potential harm or discomfort that participants might experience.	**Referral Mechanisms:** • A referral mechanism was adopted for participants experiencing adverse effects, with contacts for the necessary support • Collaboration with local administration and Directorate of Children Services was undertaken for escalation of issues. **Privacy Protection:** • Privacy measures were implemented to protect participants from social risks such as stigma or discrimination. Further, emphasis was placed on the confidential nature of the study and how the participant information will be handled.
2.	• Special attention to the unique vulnerabilities of children in research, ensuring age-appropriate informed consent processes and avoiding undue stress.	**Informed Consent Process:** • A comprehensive and age-appropriate informed consent process was adhered to for both children and their guardians, emphasizing the voluntary nature of participation and clearly outlining potential risks
3.	• Thorough assessment of all study procedures to identify any potential pitfalls or areas where risks might arise.	**Ethical Oversight:** • PARS worked closely with TdH and SND throughout the exercise, receiving oversight and guidance as needed to uphold and adhere to ethical standards. **Training for Researchers:** • Comprehensive training for researchers, was conducted this involved training on ethical conduct, sensitivity to participants' needs (using a trauma informed approach), and immediate response protocols in case of unforeseen events. **Data Security Measures:** • Robust data security measures were adopted to protect the confidentiality and privacy of participants, especially given the sensitive nature of the study involving children.

4. Child Safeguarding Measures:

The study adhered to Terre des Hommes Netherlands' Child Safeguarding Policies and Guidelines. All research staff involved in the study were screened and reference checked to confirm their suitability for working with children. In addition, they were thoroughly trained and signed a child protection commitment, indicating that they would fully adhere to Terre des Hommes Netherlands' Child Safeguarding Policies and Guidelines

The study was implemented in three main phases: An inception phase, field inquiry phase and a synthesis and feedback phase.

2.3 INCEPTION PHASE

The inception phase commenced after completion of the contracting stages. A preliminary meeting was held on 6th October 2023 to clarify issues on timelines, provide the project overview and establish the roles of both organizations (PARS and TdH NL). PARS then commenced literature review of all the available relevant documents. The findings of the literature review were key in development of tools and have also enriched the contents of this report.

Literature review was conducted on selected relevant documents categorized using the Strength of Evidence approach to ensure conceptual framing, transparency, appropriateness, cultural sensitivity, validity, reliability and cogency. Once the final selection and analysis of documentation and secondary data had been done, the below 4 analytical questions were used to assess information relevance and strength:

1. *Are the documents the most recent in relation to the thematic objectives?*

2. *In answering the research questions what gaps emerge based on the information available?*

3. *What events have happened since the last data collection to suggest data may be different today?*

4. *Is more information likely to be found and if not, can the question be more adequately addressed through future data collection?*

In this phase, an inception report, quantitative and qualitative tools were delivered, reviewed and approved by TdH NL.

2.4 FIELD INVESTIGATION PHASE

This phase commenced upon approval of the inception report and data collection tools by TdH NL. The research study was both exploratory and explanatory in the sense that it ventured to identify unknown facts around Child Trafficking and Unsafe migration while also detailing the reasons/theory behind certain occurrences around the same. Purposive sampling was used to select the best fit Key Informants as well as FGD participants.

2.4.1 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

KIIs, FGDs and Case Studies were adopted for qualitative data collection with the understanding that human behaviours are best explained using qualitative research. This allowed the study to identify the deep-rooted feelings and beliefs among the respondents. It adopted an unstructured format, more of a conversation, allowing free flow of information. For quality control purposes, all the sessions and interviews were recorded, with the respondent's consent.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

These were one on one discussions with personnel that had credible information, relevant to the topic of child trafficking and unsafe migration. In addition to providing a relaxed environment for respondents to better articulate their beliefs, actions and roles, KIIs also allowed the interviewers to probe where necessary and seek clarification as per the KII guides developed. The guides were tested and approved to ensure that all subject areas were covered.

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The table below details the 21 KIIs attained against the target per category.

Table 1: No of KIIs Targeted versus Included

Type of respondent	No. of KIIs Targeted	No. of KIIs Included
Department of Children Services (DCS)	1	1
Directorate of Criminal Investigation - AHTCPU and CTiP	0	2
Law enforcement agencies - Police and judiciary	2	2
Relevant NGOs in the space (KNCHR)	0	1
Representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs)	2	2
Border Management Committees (BMC)	2	1
Members of Child Right Clubs (CRC)	2	0
Teachers/ heads of schools (public and private)	4	3
Child protection officers in government offices at national and county level	2	2
Children's Courts Representatives (county level)	1	1
Community Resource Persons (CRPs) e.g. religious leaders, elders, local administration leaders, business community leaders, youth, women and men group leaders	4	4
Parents of child survivors of trafficking	5	1
Local Media	1	1
Total	**26**	**21**

NB: Some of the KIIs were not achieved, particularly for parents of child survivors of trafficking due to hard to reach nature of these respondents since Moyale is a transit point, and the parents were in the country of origin, also, further, due to the nature of human trafficking, survivors and their families may be geographically dispersed. Nonetheless one KII was conducted with a parent child survivor of trafficking. One teacher was not interviewed since schools were closed and the on-going National examinations made it hard to conduct this interview. Further, a case study was conducted with a child survivor of trafficking.

Focus Group Discussions

In-depth qualitative discussions were held with 8-10 participants, selected to fit a certain category of respondents. This research conducted focus groups with parents/ caregivers, children of different age groups and teachers. A trained moderator steered the focus group discussions through the use of a discussion guide. A screening questionnaire was applied at the recruitment stage in order to ensure suitability of individuals. The screening questionnaire collected information on the participant's demographics, including their residence location and duration of stay in the sub-county. It also explored their awareness and personal experiences with child trafficking, involvement in community initiatives, availability for the entire duration of the FGD, and provided a means of contact. The FGD guides adopted the use of vignettes, allowing participants to define situations in their own terms, without fears of their responses reflecting directly to them or their real-life situations. For effective FGDs the moderators were supported by a note taker and the conversations recorded for transcription with the consent of participants.

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Table 2: No. of FGDs Targeted versus Achieved

Type of respondent	Target FGDs			Achieved FGDs		
	Kenya	Ethiopia	Target FGDs	Kenya	Ethiopia	No of FGDs Achieved
Parents/Caregivers	3	1	4	3	1	4
Children (5- 8 years)	1	0	1	1	0	1
Children (9- 11 years)	1	0	1	1	0	1
Children (12- 14 years)	1	0	1	1	0	1
Children (15- 17 years)	1	0	1	1	0	1
Youth (18- 35 years)	1	1	2	1	2	3
School teachers (drawn from different schools)	1	1	2	1	0	1
Government Officials	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	**9**	**3**	**12**	**9**	**4**	**13**

NB: One FGD for school teachers in Ethiopia, could not be done due to time constraints and challenges mobilizing the requisite respondents

Case Studies

Two case studies were conducted, the first case study focused on the perspective of a parent of a child who had survived trafficking, aiming to explore the emotional, social, and economic dimensions of the family's ordeal. This approach availed insights into the parental experience and the challenges faced in the aftermath of child trafficking. The second case study concentrated on the direct experiences of a child survivor of trafficking, aiming to comprehend the unique challenges, traumas, and coping mechanisms involved. By capturing both the parental and child survivor perspectives, the research sought to offer a holistic and detailed portrayal of the multifaceted issues surrounding child trafficking. Case studies are in-depth investigation of a single case or a small number of cases. They provide a detailed examination of a particular situation, organization or individual. Case studies are often used to understand complex phenomena and to gain rich, contextualised insights. Below is a comparison of the targeted against achieved number of case studies;

Table 3: No. of Case Studies Targeted versus Achieved

#	Category	Case Studies Conducted
1.	Children aged 5 – 18 years	1
3.	Parents/Caregivers	1
	TOTAL	*2*

These case studies aimed to provide in-depth insights into the specific experiences, challenges, and factors that contribute to child trafficking and unsafe migration in the region. The case studies were conducted using a participatory and trauma-informed approach, ensuring the safety and well-being of the participants throughout the process as detailed in the inception report. The research team worked closely with the children and their parents or caregivers to create a safe and supportive environment for sharing their stories. The case studies contributed to the development of key messaging for advocacy at the local and national levels. The findings from these case studies have been used to develop relevant recommendations around awareness, policy discussions, and strengthening child protection mechanisms.

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2.4.2 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

Quantitative research deals with measurement and involves asking respondents questions and recording answers using a structured questionnaire. This provided the research with uniformity in data-collection, eliminating variations in the way questions were asked, and offering a standard format for recording answers. The data collected was tabulated and further analysed using statistical techniques. The purpose of this element was to obtain quantitative data that would help build evidence on the presence of child trafficking through community members and children. The targeted population for this element were government officials, local communities and the general public including children. The questionnaire comprised of both closed and open-ended questions. Attitudes, views and in-depth experience were captured by the open-ended questions.

Face-to-face interviews were conducted via CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews) using mobile phones or tablets with the respondents. This was done by programming the questionnaire on a secure online server with the help of ODK (Open Data Kit) software. The enumerators were trained on how to access the questionnaire from the server using mobile devices provided by the company. The conducted interviews were transmitted to the PARS server. The data manager in the office was able access the data on a daily basis and detect any discrepancies for correction or clarification. This was communicated to the supervisor on the ground who acted on the recommendations

provided. This method is strong in validity as GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates were also taken. A target sample size of 385 parents/caregivers was adopted. The sample was proportionately distributed to factor in all the beneficiary categories i.e. parents/caregivers, government agencies, and executive agencies.

Children between (10-18) years were targeted, with the reasoning that they were at a much better position to clearly articulate their views. A sample size of 30 allowed for a reasonable representation of the target population and helped ensure that the findings were not merely anecdotal or based on a few isolated cases.

Data collection primarily took place at household level. Children were informed about the purpose and nature of the survey in a way that they understood. Further, consent was obtained from the parents/guardians, and assent was obtained from the child. Local administrators were notified of the existence of the survey before data collection in their areas of jurisdiction. The selection of participants was based on random sampling techniques to ensure representativeness within the target population. The research team adhered to the stipulated ethical considerations, including child safeguarding measures to protect the well-being and privacy of the participants, this included which participants being informed on the channels of reporting their safeguarding concerns

2.4.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. During the initial stage, several potential limitations, assumptions, and constraints were identified. In most instances, these challenges were effectively dealt with by leveraging the support of the evaluation team and by cross-referencing information gathered from diverse sources. This approach was employed to bolster the credibility of evidence-based conclusions.

2. The limited data collection period, constrained the extent to which the targeted interviews were achieved as it was difficult to mobilise participants on time. Additionally, the study's timing during the rainy season and school holidays, restricted access to certain areas and the availability of targeted teachers. While the consultants endeavoured to reach out to the designated respondents via email and telephone, a few interviews remained uncompleted. In addition, Some of the KIIs were not

achieved, particularly for parents of child survivors of trafficking due to hard to reach nature of these respondents since Moyale is a transit point, and the parents were in the country of origin, also, further, due to the nature of human trafficking, survivors and their families may be geographically dispersed. Nonetheless one KII was conducted with a parent child survivor of trafficking. One teacher was not interviewed since schools were closed and the on-going National examinations made it hard to conduct this interview. Further, a case study was conducted with a child survivor of trafficking.

3. Some of the respondents were INITIALLY reluctant to participate in the study due to the sensitivity of the subject matter, fear of retribution and safety concerns. The mention of certain military groups, particularly the 'Oromo' main cartel, reportedly heightened apprehension among the participants.

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Nevertheless, after the researchers' assurance of confidentiality and anonymity, the respondents participated.

4. Case studies were not conducted as planned due to challenges in tracing them, since they were not from Moyale and were unreachable via phone. Nonetheless, two case studies were attained and some of the requisite information was obtained from KIIs, in terms of relevant stories.

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[3] *The below formula was used to generate the samples; $n = (Z^2 \ast p \ast q) / E^2$ Where: n = required sample size; Z = Z-score corresponding to the desired confidence level (e.g., 1.96 for a 95% confidence level); p = estimated proportion or expected prevalence (if unknown, use 0.5 for maximum variability); q = 1 − p; E = desired margin of error or precision (expressed as a decimal); With a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of 5% (0.05), where p = 0.5, to ensure maximum variability: $n = (1.96^2 \ast 0.5 \ast 0.5) / (0.05^2)$; $n = (3.8416 \ast 0.25) / 0.0025$; $n = 0.9604 / 0.0025$; $n = 384.16$*

Image source- SND 2023

MAIN
FINDINGS

3.1. DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 444 respondents were randomly sampled and interviewed out of a target 415 respondents comprising parents/caregivers, children and government stakeholders. Out of the 355 target parents/caregivers, 380 were interviewed. Of these, 177 (47%) were male whereas 203 (53%) were female. More than half (56%) were aged between 18 – 35 years, whereas 44% were aged 36 years and above. Three in every five (60%) of the surveyed parents/caregivers had no formal education, 23% had attained primary school education,

11% had attained secondary school education, whereas only 6% had a college/university certificate. The interviews were conducted in 7 wards Golbo (85), Heilu Manyatta (84), Township (76), Obbu (52), Sololo (46), and Butiye (37). Villages covered included Yaballo, Bori, D.F, Sessi, Kinisa, Obitu, Uran, Anona, Manyatta, Nana, Makutano, Ramole and Dabel . More than 7 in every 10 (71%) of the respondents were household heads. The table below details the demographics splits attained in each target area:

Figure 1: Demographics; Parents
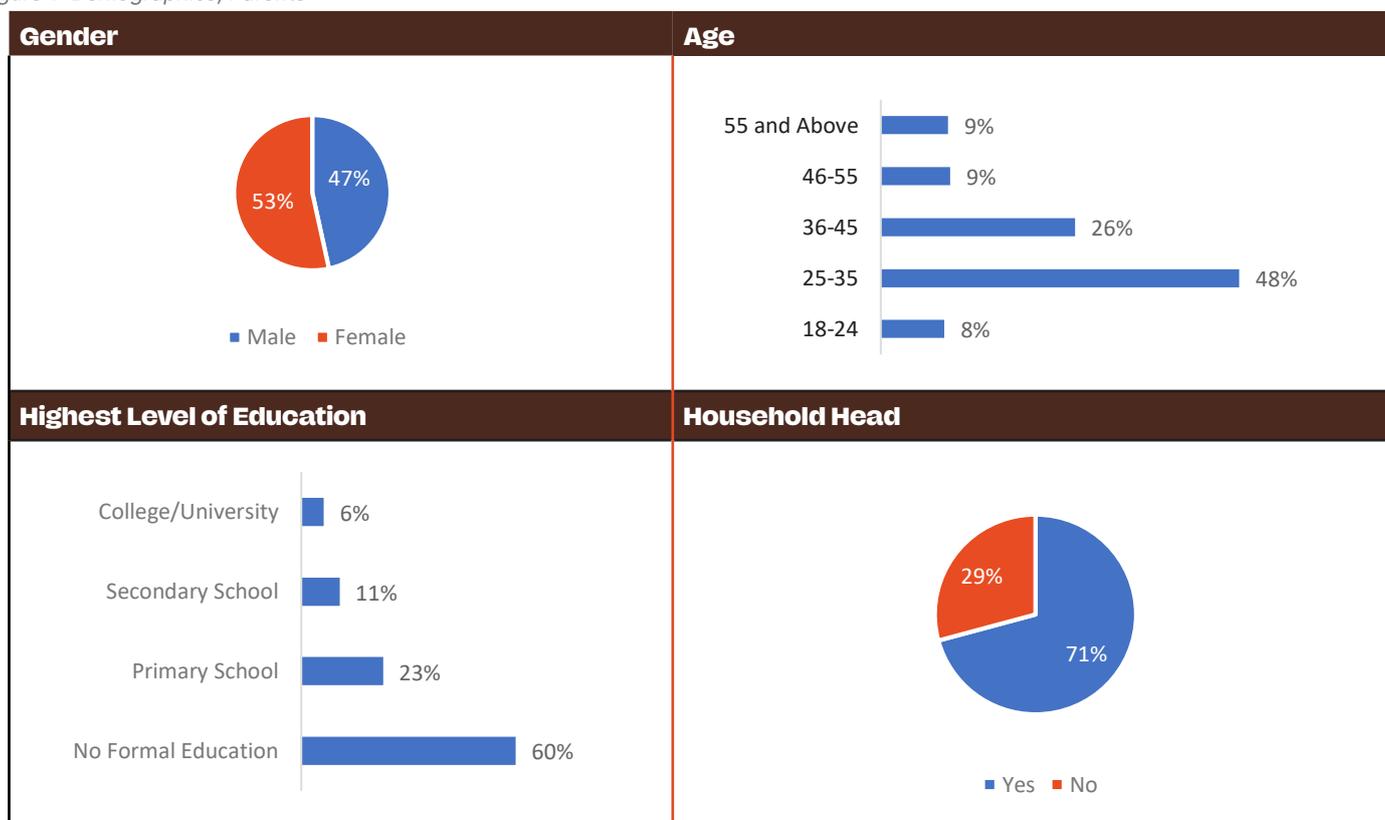
The study covered 34 children out of a target of 30. There was an equal distribution of male and female distribution of male and female children respondents. The study covered children aged 8 – 10 years (26%), 11 -14 years (38%) and 15 – 17 years (35%). A majority of the children (59%) were in primary school, 38% were in secondary school whereas 3% had never attended school. The table below details the attained demographic composition of children target area:

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[4] *NB: The targeted villages were identified as hotspots for child trafficking by SND and TDH.*

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Figure 2: Demographics, Children

Gender

Male 50% | Female 50%

Age

15-17	35%
11-14.	38%
8-10.	26%

Current Level of Education

Out of school/Never attended school	3%
Secondary School	38%
Primary School	59%

How many siblings do you have in your household?

5+	21%
4	29%
3	18%
2	29%
1	3%
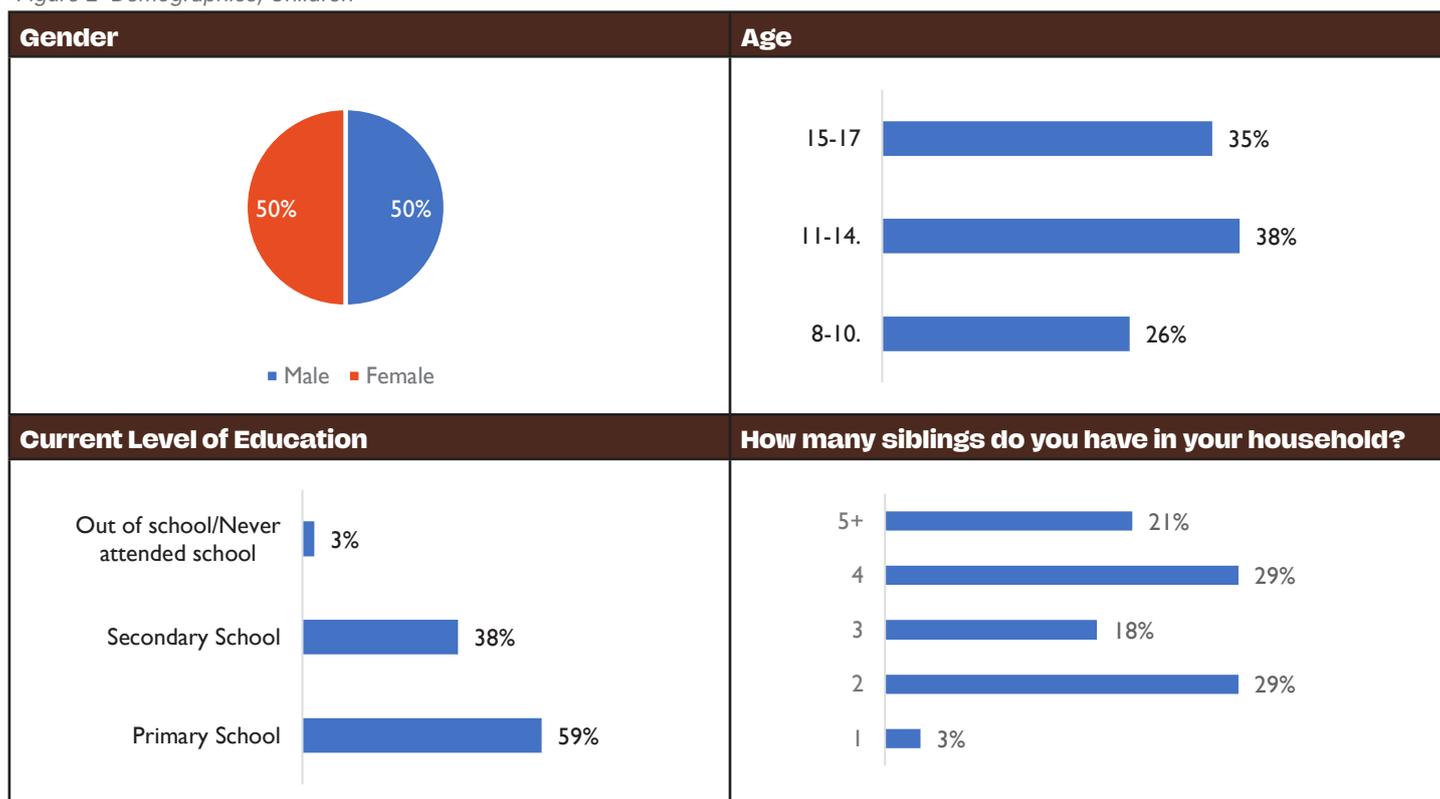
3.2. STRUCTURAL DRIVERS AND ENABLERS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION IN MARSABIT COUNTY

Child trafficking in Kenya is a multifaceted problem, with children being trafficked both domestically and internationally. The country serves as a source, transit, and destination for child trafficking. According to the 2023 TiP report, there are an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 victims involved in sex trafficking, which encompasses child sex tourism. Out of this figure, roughly 19,000 individuals were children. Further, according to the United States of America Government Trafficking in Persons report, (2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Kenya) it is estimated that thousands of Kenyan children fall victim to trafficking each year, although obtaining precise statistics is challenging due to the hidden nature of this crime . Furthermore, Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation. Kenya borders Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania, which are known sources of victims of trafficking (VoT). The report ranks Kenya as a Tier 2 country, among governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims

Protection Act of 2000 (USA Legislation), which states that the purpose of combating human trafficking is to punish traffickers, to protect victims, and to prevent trafficking from occurring.

According to a recent study on the most prevalent form of human trafficking in Kenya carried out by the by the National Crime Research Centre Updated 2022 Revised Edition (First Edition - 2015) more than half (54.9%) of members of the public were of the opinion that human trafficking in the country was high. Secondary data obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Intelligence Service, and the Kenya Prisons Service showed that there was an 82.4% increase in the number of human trafficking cases in year 2021, with the number of cases of labour trafficking having increased by 86.6% between year 2020 and 2021 and accounting for 96.0% and 98.3% of all the human trafficking cases in year 2020 and 2021 respectively. Prevalence, prominence and/or popularity of human trafficking was gauged based on three aspects of: internal/domestic and external human trafficking;

[5] *https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/kenya/#:~:text=Kenya%20(Tier%202),-The%20Government%20of*

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comparison based on destination, source and transit aspects; and the demographic characteristics of victims and main purposes of trafficking. Between internal/domestic and external human trafficking, the findings of the study showed that external human trafficking was the most prominent at 64.7%. On the other hand, internal/domestic human trafficking was rated at 35.3%. On the most prominent and/or popular between destination, source and transit human trafficking, trafficking of victims from Kenya as a source to other countries was rated as the most prominent and/or popular, followed by trafficking of victims to other countries through Kenya as a transit, and trafficking of victims from other countries to Kenya as a destination. Findings of the study showed that the country was experiencing trafficking for labour exploitation/domestic servitude, trafficking for sex exploitation and trafficking for cultural reasons. However, trafficking for labour and trafficking for sex-related and/or prostitution (sexual exploitation in the case of children) purposes were the types/forms of trafficking mainly known by members of the public. Based on the main purposes of trafficking and the demographic characteristics of victims, the most prevalent specific types/forms of human trafficking in the country were trafficking for labour and sex trafficking (2022 Revised Edition by the National Crime Research Centre)

3.2.1. LEADING CAUSES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Marsabit County is affected by both internal and cross-border child trafficking. Internal trafficking occurs when children are relocated from Marsabit to other parts of the county or vice versa. On the other hand, cross border trafficking occurs when children are illegally relocated from or to Kenya. In Moyale, the study established that 91% of the child trafficking cases are cross border related. Currently 100% of the known cases are of victims with Ethiopian origin. The most common trafficking routes are through the informal borders of Ethiopia-Kenya. Though the local media reported observing a few cases of Somalia victims.

"The main trafficking routes in our county are primarily located in the border areas near Ethiopia, particularly in the northern part of the county' **KII with Community Leader**

Majority of them who are in Moyale come from Ethiopia, those who come from Somalia are extremely few' **KII with the Local Media**

The cross-cutting leading cause of child trafficking and unsafe migration was economic deprivation and related challenges. For both government agencies and parents/caregivers, lack of livelihood opportunities was the leading cause as it contributes to limited future prospects for many inhabitants of the region which is arid. One KII from a CSO elaborated on the structural challenges associated with the economic and environmental factors, pointing out that;

"The region we're in, specifically the border town of Moyale, experiences significant challenges, primarily due to prolonged droughts affecting both the Kenyan and Ethiopian sides. These circumstances push parents to find means of survival, often resulting in a vicious cycle of poverty.......where children face challenges such as early pregnancies and a lack of educational opportunities.

They are then lured away to other areas with promises of a better life. The community's norms play a significant role in perpetuating these activities" -KII, SND

With limited options including access to education, the search for employment opportunities and livelihood opportunities among the vulnerable groups contributed to child trafficking and unsafe migration by 73% and 64% respectively.

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Table 4: Leading causes of Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration; Parents and Caregivers

	Government Agencies	Parents/Caregivers
BASE	**30**	**380**
Lack of livelihood opportunities	91%	73%
Search for employment	73%	47%
Drug abuse	27%	37%
Lack of livelihood opportunities among different vulnerable groups	64%	44%
Loss of parent/parents	18%	42%
Harmful cultural practices and radicalization	27%	28%
Illiteracy	64%	46%
Search for educational and training	27%	16%
Access to legal services	9%	9%

For the children interviewed, more than half (56%) attributed lack of education and poverty (44%) and family issues (44%) as the leading causes of child trafficking and exposure to unsafe migration.

Figure 3: Leading Causes of Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration, Children

BASE 34
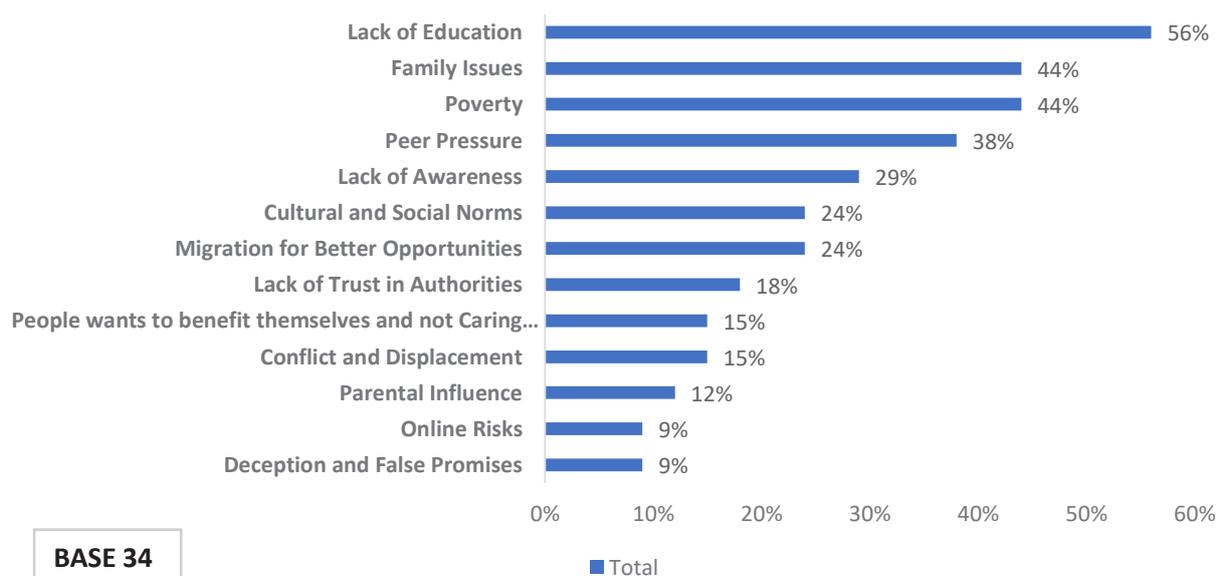
Issues such as escape from harsh political climates and conflict (45%), escape from law enforcement and tax regulations (55%) escape from harmful cultural practices such as radicalization and child marriages (36%) and online grooming (9%) were also mentioned.

'In Marsabit County, the key drivers of child trafficking and unsafe migration are closely linked to poverty and limited access to quality education and employment opportunities. The region's remote and marginalized communities also face challenges related to insecurity and lack of law enforcement, creating an environment where traffickers can operate with relative impunity' **KII with community leader**

Particularly for the Ethiopia and Kenya border, quantitative survey with government official established that 100% of the entrants from Ethiopia to Kenya came in search of better economic opportunities. This is usually an easy transit route for traffickers with their targeted destination being either Nairobi, Mombasa, Tanzania and even as far as South Africa.

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It was established that Moyale is predominately used as a 'Stop over' by traffickers where victims are first trained on the different exploitative trade as well as to improve their abilities to converse in the local language before being further transported to other parts of the country and beyond. Moyale is mainly selected due to its proximity to the border point.

"The primary pull factor for this migration is the pursuit of better opportunities. Many adults who accompany these children are looking for improved living conditions, particularly in South Africa. For the children themselves, access to services and the belief that they can achieve a better life in Kenya also serve as significant pull factors" **KII with KNCHR**

'They take time within the border in Moyale, once they learn the language, they gather the courage now to go through into other parts of the country and even beyond' **KII with Local Media**

"They entice children and their parents with promises of education and a brighter future. In the pursuit of these enticing offers, children accompany them. However, what these children and parents may not realize is that the child, who often cannot communicate or comprehend the situation, becomes the focal point of the operation. In exchange, the accompanying person may receive a fee" - **KII-SND**

A case study done with one of the caregivers proves the trafficking of children for labour:

CASE STUDY 1: TRAFFICKED FOR LABOUR; FROM ETHIOPIA TO KENYA

She was a young girl hailing from Ethiopia, who had found herself in a distressing situation as a house help. Her life took a dramatic turn as she bravely fled from her place of employment, driven by the relentless physical abuse she endured and the denial of her rightful wages. She sought refuge in our home, where she found a supportive environment to share her painful journey.

As she narrated her ordeal, the full extent of her predicament came to light. She revealed that she had been brought to this foreign land against her will, essentially held captive in an unfamiliar country, with her family back in Ethiopia completely unaware of her whereabouts. Her story was a heartbreaking one, highlighting the plight of vulnerable individuals who fall victim to human trafficking and exploitation.

In response to this distressing revelation, my parents decided to take decisive action. They accompanied her to the local authorities, where her case was reported. As a result of their efforts and the support of law enforcement, she was eventually repatriated to her home country, providing her with the opportunity to reunite with her family and escape the cycle of abuse and exploitation she had endured.

CASE STUDY 2: TRAFFICKED FOR LABOUR, MOYALE SUB-COUNTY

When I was younger, I experienced a period where I seemed to be affected by some sort of malevolent force. Concerned about my well-being, my family took me to various specialists for treatment. Some attributed my condition to perceived disrespect toward my parents. Thankfully, I eventually recovered.

After my recovery, one of my aunts approached my parents and requested that I assist her by taking care of her child. In return, she promised to compensate me. I agreed and began helping in her shop. However, when schools were closed, my responsibilities extended to household chores.

One day, one of her children gave me four mandazis. I consumed two and returned the remaining two. When the mother inquired about the mandazis, I explained the situation, detailing how I received four, ate two, and returned the others. Despite my explanation, she proceeded to physically punish me using a wooden 'mwiko' and even beat me on my back.

Feeling trapped, I initially couldn't escape, but when she later instructed me to dispose of litter, I seized the opportunity to flee for my safety.

Still on enablers, geographically, the porous nature of the Kenya-Ethiopia border has to a larger extent contributed to increased prevalence of child trafficking and unsafe migration, mainly through the unofficial crossing points. Though poverty and economic hardships was the leading factor across all groups interviewed, the study also established other factors such as limited access to education opportunities, where the children are told they will be taken to school. Other factors include weak law enforcement and tax regulations. Additionally, through engagement with community gatekeepers and the local media, it was noted that local community members played a major role in aiding traffickers. This was by aiding to hide victims as cargos on transits, as their own children and issuance of false IDs or even giving out their ID cards and reporting them as lost. Some used their own vehicles to transport victims through unmanned routes in the county. Closely linked to the above, there is the existence of corrupt government officials and border patrol officers who were willing to turn a blind eye on some vehicles at check points.

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'The traffickers guide the children through these routes, avoiding immigration areas' **KII with CSO Social worker**

'On Kenyan side, our police officers do not pull over personal vehicles so it's easier to pass and when they happen to pull over our police officers are used to bribes, they give them 1000 and they make it'* **KII with local Media**

The study also established that the internet plays a significant role in empowering traffickers by enabling them to understand how to reach and involve children in various services or networks. While precise data to quantify its extent might be lacking, technology, particularly the internet, has contributed to the increase in human trafficking.

"Of course, the internet has a role in empowering traffickers to understand how to reach children and how to involve them in various services or networks. While there may not be precise data to quantify its extent, technology has indeed contributed to the increase in human trafficking." - **KII, AHTCPU**

The existence of some social norms and cultural beliefs and practices among the communities in Marsabit has also significantly fuelled child trafficking and unsafe migration. Notably, this was mentioned as a causative factor among all groups interviewed; Government officials (27%), parents/ caregivers (28%) and children (24%). Of particular concern is accepted practices of child marriage.

The main push factors associated with a porous border are summarised in the below.

Figure 4: What makes the Kenya-Ethiopia border porous to Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration

Factor	Percentage
Poverty and economic hardships	100%
Limited access to quality education	82%
Weak law enforcement and lax regulations	55%
Proximity to international borders	45%
Regions with conflict and instability	45%
Tradition of migration for employment	36%
Limited economic opportunities and social services	36%
Cultural practices, such as early marriages	36%
High unemployment rates	36%
Political instability and challenges within the countries	27%
Dysfunctional family dynamics	27%
Corruption within law enforcement and government	27%
Presence of informal labor sectors	27%
Vulnerability to natural disasters	18%
General lack of awareness about trafficking	18%
Online risks and grooming	9%

Residents in Moyale are quite communal in the sense that they freely interact and relate with the vast network of relatives settled beyond the border points. KNCHR pointed out that it is not unusual for one to cross from one country to the other to trade, visit and interact with other community. This makes it easy for traffickers to cross with the victims without questions.

'The intercommunity ways of life have increased the child trafficking phenomenon. ... we do not have a wall of sorts. And by virtue of that interaction, where you can go in and you can come out, by virtue of the fact that the two communities are able to interact, then it makes it very easy for someone to traffick a child

silently without the authorities getting to understand what is going on' **KII with KNCHR -CTIP**

The study also noted that some parents didn't recognize the importance of education for their children and otherwise opted to make them work in farms, grazing cattle, or send them to relatives and/or strangers to work as domestic workers. For those forced to send children to school, due to the government legislation on mandatory education and training issued under Article 35(3) of the 2010 Constitution, they instead hired other children. These children are selected as they are a source of cheap labor and can be easily exploited. Additionally, some children were forced into

early marriages to maintain the family lineage. Girls in particular are seen as a source of income through the dowry received from the husband's family. One KII expert noted that;

'Forced and early marriages are also issues that affect these girls who are trafficked' KII with Health Expert

3.2.2.   FORMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking is a significant concern. Recruiters often target vulnerable children, both from the local area and neighboring countries, taking advantage of their economic vulnerabilities and the promise of better opportunities. Cross-border trafficking is prevalent, with many children, primarily from Ethiopia, being lured with the false promise of a better life in Kenya. It is distressing to note that children as young as nine end up taking care of older children in Kenyan families, a common scenario in this cross-border trafficking dynamic. The transnational nature of this problem is emphasized as children are smuggled into Kenya from various towns in Ethiopia, with their final destinations often being far beyond Kenya's borders, typically in South Africa.

However, internal trafficking is also a concern. Children within Kenya are often moved from one county to another, such as from rural to urban areas, for purposes of exploitation. While cross-border cases draw significant attention, there is an acknowledgment that child trafficking is not solely limited to external movements. A study by the National Crime Research Center on the Problem of Human Trafficking in Kenya indicates that child trafficking within the country involves children being relocated within Kenya, particularly from rural to urban areas for exploitation. These insights collectively underscore the urgency and complexity of addressing child trafficking, both internal and cross-border, to protect the welfare and future of children in the region.

"Cross-border trafficking is more common in our county. Children are often lured with promises of better opportunities in neighbouring countries, and recruiters

exploit transit routes to facilitate this." – **FGD,Teachers**

"Internal trafficking is prevalent in our county, with recruiters often targeting vulnerable children within the same region and exploiting them for various purposes." – **FGD, Parents**

"Cross-border trafficking is more prevalent. It's challenging to find Kenyan children being trafficked within Kenya as most of them have families here who can provide for their education and well-being. However, the children exposed to child trafficking and unsafe migration predominantly come from the Ethiopian side. They cross the border, often under the false promise that Kenya offers a better life. Many young girls, as young as nine, end up taking care of older children in families. This is a common scenario, and it predominantly involves children from Ethiopia." **– KII, SND**

"Child trafficking in Moyale, as well as in Kenya, involves both internal and cross-border trafficking. Internally, children are often moved from one county to another, such as from Marsabit to Nairobi, Mombasa, or other counties. Externally, many children are trafficked from neighbouring countries like Ethiopia. In terms of the specific routes and destinations, children are smuggled into Kenya from various towns in Ethiopia, and their ultimate destination is typically South Africa." **– KII, KNCHR**

"According to a study by the National Crime Research Center, the prevalence of child trafficking appears to be higher within our country, involving our own children being moved from rural to urban areas for exploitation, but cross-border cases are also a concern." **– KII, DCS**

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3.2.3.   TRANSIT ROUTES

Moyale in Marsabit County and Mandera belong to a cluster of specific regions in Kenya that have been identified in previous studies as prone to child trafficking and broader human trafficking practices (NCRC; 2022). In Marsabit, the porous and insecure borders between Kenya and Ethiopia in the Moyale region facilitate human trafficking, including child trafficking, primarily originating from Ethiopia. This region also serves as a conduit for trafficking from Somalia and Eritrea into Kenya, utilizing the transit corridor connecting Moyale, Isiolo, and Nairobi. Mandera, on the other hand, is a major transit point for human trafficking from Somalia into Kenya. Moyale is a major nexus for smuggling and 60 per cent of the town's income is said to be derived from the business, it is considered a major recruitment centre for Kenyan agents and the main town in the country's north, the epicentre for human trafficking.

Smuggling cartels facilitate the illegal crossing of migrants into Kenya through Moyale, Dukana and Forolle in North Horr, Bute in Wajir North and Takaba in Mandera West. Illegal migrants come from Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia mostly with the help of corrupt Kenyan officials. In terms of external human trafficking, six prominent transit routes have been identified, presented in order of prominence. These routes include the Ethiopia-Moyale-Isiolo to Nairobi-Namanga (Kajiado)-Tanzania-South Africa route, the Somalia-Mandera-Garissa-Nairobi route leading to Europe, the Somalia-Marsabit-Turkana-South Sudan-Egypt-Saudi Arabia and Qatar route, the Tanzania-Loitoktok (Kajiado)-Nairobi-USA route, the Kenya-Tanzania-South Africa-Saudi Arabia and/or Qatar route, and the Ethiopia-Moyale-Nairobi-Mombasa-Tanzania-South Africa route. These delineated pathways highlight the complex and interconnected nature of external human trafficking, underscoring the need for comprehensive and collaborative efforts to address and combat trafficking activities along these routes and safeguard the well-being of individuals at risk.

Unemployment and poverty, alongside natural disasters and wars, create unsafe living conditions in the source communities that drive affected individuals to seek migration. The desire to migrate significantly exceeds the available legal avenues for crossing international borders. In response to this surge in demand for migration, smugglers exploit the vulnerabilities and precarious circumstances of migrants to make a profit. Migrant smuggling originating from Ethiopia and Somalia typically involves a mix of migrants. These individuals include refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, unaccompanied or separated children, and in some cases, victims of trafficking. While some migrants are en-route to Kenya, many use Kenya as a temporary stopover while their documentation is processed and arrangements are made for their onward journey to Tanzania and South Africa.

Smuggled migrants from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, maintain connections with prominent smuggling organizers in Nairobi. Research and media reports have observed that the majority of these migrants have South Africa as their ultimate destination in mind. Their journey begins with a road trip from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, through the Moyale border in Kenya, ultimately reaching Nairobi. Some may continue their journey to the Mombasa or Namanga borders with Tanzania as they head further south. The inherent insecurity along the Kenya-Somalia border exposes this area to heightened vulnerability, a consequence of the instability prevailing in Somalia. According to the 2022 Revised Edition by the National Crime Research Centre on human trafficking, The leading contributors of victims in the Kenyan external human trafficking problem were found to be Ethiopia (accounting for 6 out of 10 victims) followed by Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. The leading foreign destinations for victims leaving Kenya were Saudi Arabia and Qatar (accounting for 3 out of 10 victims), Europe (accounting for 2 out of 10 victims), South Africa (accounting for 2 out of 10 victims) and the United States of America (accounting for 1 out of 10 victims).

Study findings indicate that child trafficking routes are often covert, involving intricate journeys that may extend from one region to another. The study established that child trafficking routes are often clandestine, making them challenging to detect. These routes extend from the region to the Moyale Kenya border post. Traffickers frequently avoid regular vehicles, relying on local motorbike riders who are part of a significant trafficking network, they also rely on foot, public and private vehicles, and taxis.

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Some victims of trafficking report that their money, initially taken under the promise of a better job or opportunity, is diverted, leading to a complicated journey. The route can extend as far as Mega in Ethiopia, with occasional overnight stops that further complicate the journey.

"Traffickers use covert transit routes that extend from the author's region to the Moyale Kenya border post. Instead of regular vehicles, they employ local motorbike riders who are part of a trafficking network. Many victims have complaints as they were promised better opportunities but had their money diverted by traffickers who then arranged their transport using a Boda Boda app. The journey can extend all the way to Mega, deep within Ethiopia, and may include overnight stops along the way, making the route even more complex and challenging to detect." - **KII, Law Enforcement agency**

Kenya's human trafficking problem has both regional and international dimensions, with the African and Middle East regions being the main external trafficking destination players. Findings from key informants, equally indicate that Child trafficking extends beyond the local area, with many individuals arriving in Moyale from Ethiopia. Some of them travel further within Kenya, such as to Nyali in Mombasa, and even cross international borders into Tanzania. They may be used as brokers in major Kenyan cities like Nairobi and Mombasa. As they spend time within the border in Moyale, they learn the language and gain the confidence to move into other parts of the

country, exploiting relaxed security measures. This geographic expansion underscores the scale and complexity of child trafficking routes in the region. Hence there is need for effective anti-trafficking cooperation focusing especially on countries in the African and Middle East regions

"Yes, majority of immigrnts in Moyale come from Ethiopia, with only a few coming from Somalia. These immigrants often travel all the way from Ethiopia through Kenya to Tanzania. Some of them are used as brokers in Nairobi, Mombasa, and other major towns. They initially spend time within the border in Moyale to learn the language, then move through other parts of the country, such as Marsabit and Isiolo. Once in Isiolo, they can freely travel anywhere in the country due to relaxed security. These immigrants are spread throughout Kenya, including Nairobi and Mombasa" – **KII Local Media**

Moyale is mostly a transit/stop over point, with children arriving in Moyale primarily from Ethiopia but also heading to South Africa. This movement highlights the transnational nature of child trafficking, where individuals are both brought into and taken out of the region. The trafficking network's reach extends in multiple directions, contributing to the persistence of this issue

"Yes, the majority of the children arriving in Moyale come from Ethiopia and are headed to South Africa. However, it's essential to note that the trafficking route runs in both directions." – **KII CSO**

[8] https://www.crimeresearch.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Report-on-the-Problem-of-Human-Trafficking-inKenya.pdf

[9] file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Kenyas_implementation_of_the_Smuggling_Protocol_i.pdf

[10] https://www.crimeresearch.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Report-on-the-Problem-of-Human-Trafficking-inKenya.pdf

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3.2.4.   THE ROLE OF CULTURE AND SOCIAL NORMS IN ENABLING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

To some extent, culture and social norms are considered enabling factors that anchor child trafficking and unsafe migration. A considerable proportion (24%) of parents and caregivers rated it as a contributor to a very large extent (16%) or large extent (8%). On the flip side, 65% rated its impact as either little (43%) or very little (22%), whereas 11% rated its impact as moderate.

Table 5: Impact of culture and social norms in child trafficking and unsafe migration

		GENDER		AGE GROUP				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
Very large extent	16%	13%	19%	13%	21%	17%	3%	3%
Large extent	8%	10%	6%	9%	8%	7%	3%	12%
Moderate	11%	9%	13%	22%	9%	12%	11%	12%
Little extent	43%	45%	42%	31%	43%	46%	54%	35%
Very little extent	22%	23%	20%	25%	19%	17%	29%	38%

It is interesting that it is mostly men, the middle aged (25-45) and the older people (those between 46-55) who were most adamant that culture had very little influence on trafficking and unsafe migration). This reflects on the productive age group who constitute the labour force, and hence reinforcing the lack of opportunities being the biggest pull and push factor.

In terms of social norms, some of the FGD discussants noted that early marriages are prevalent, especially due to girls discontinuing their education. Additionally, the practice of Female Genital Mutilation is acknowledged but remains concealed, carried out discreetly with financial manipulation being a significant factor. The insights reveal the covert nature of FGM, where monetary considerations play a role, creating vulnerability for families with limited financial resources to be exploited by those with greater means. This underscores the need for targeted interventions addressing both early marriages and the clandestine nature of FGM, focusing on education retention and financial empowerment to counter these practices effectively.

"In the context of early marriages, the prevalence is high, primarily attributed to girls dropping out of school." - **FGD, Parents**

"FGM, it exists, but it is often concealed. Those engaging in it operate discreetly, utilizing financial means. In situations where one family lacks financial resources, another family with monetary means may exploit the situation through monetary manipulation." - **FGD, Parent**

3.3   KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES RELATED TO CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION, INCLUDING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

A 2017 study, conducted by the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) and Terre des Hommes Netherlands, revealed a lack of clear and consistent understanding of child trafficking, with many respondents mistakenly associating it with other potentially related crimes. This confusion was particularly prevalent among community members. Notably, personnel within the department of children's services, humanitarian agencies, school administration (including head and deputy teachers), and opinion leaders demonstrated a better grasp of the concept compared to other stakeholders. The stakeholders further underscored the low awareness across the country, emphasizing the need to disseminate information on child trafficking widely. Given that urban centers were identified as the primary market for child trafficking and the potential recipients of trafficked children are considered to be committing a punishable offense. The study identified the pressing need to educate the general population to reduce demand for children in the labor market and other exploitative contexts. .

3.3.1. AWARENESS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Awareness levels of child trafficking were relatively high with a majority of respondents across the 3 categories of focus admitting they were aware. All (100%), government/executive agency stakeholders admitted that they were aware of child trafficking. On the other hand, more parents (92%) than children (82%) indicated that they were aware of child trafficking.
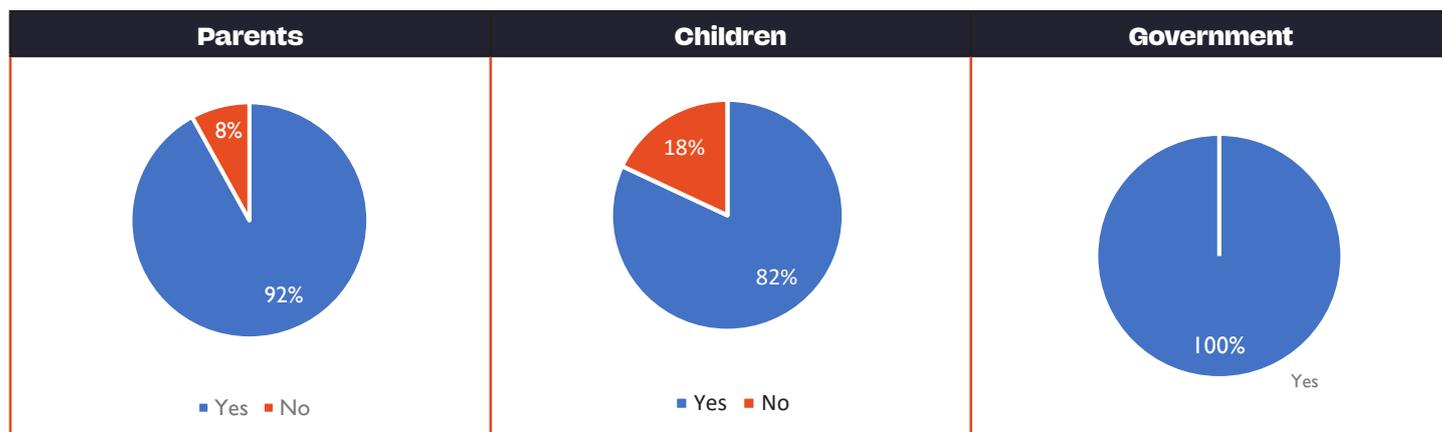
Figure 5: Awareness of Child Trafficking

However, there was lack of clarity and consistency in the community's understanding of child trafficking, due to respondents' tendency to confuse it with other, potentially related offences. The study established that parents/caregivers and children mostly associate child trafficking with the illegal trade and movement of children, exploitation of children for various purposes, and forced labour or sexual exploitation of minors. Other key mentions were criminal networks involved in child abduction and a violation of children's rights and safety. In response to this challenge, targeted training programs, awareness initiatives, and proactive information dissemination, to succinctly address this pressing need is required.

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[11] http://www.anppcan.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Baseline-Survey-on-Trafficking-in-Busia-Mandera-andMarsabit.pdf

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Figure 6: Understanding of Child Trafficking among children and caregivers

On the other hand, when asked what they associated child trafficking with, FGD participants had varied responses including:

"Taking a child that is not yours and running away" **– FGD Participant, Youth Group**

"I think it relates with early marriage." **– FGD Participant, Parents/Caregiver**

On the other hand, there was some level of clarity in terms of what child trafficking was among select stakeholder groups, as illustrated in the quotes below:

"Child trafficking is the illegal trade of children for various forms of exploitation, while unsafe migration refers to the hazardous movement of individuals without proper legal safeguards. These issues are pressing concerns in our area." – FGD, Teachers

"Child trafficking involves the illegal trade of children for various forms of exploitation, while unsafe migration refers to the risky movement of individuals, often without proper documentation or protections. These are critical issues that affect vulnerable populations" **– FGD, Teachers**

"Certainly. Child trafficking, as per our work and the legal framework in place, involves the process of moving children from one location to another by different individuals or groups, often with the intent of exploiting them. The Counter Trafficking in Persons Act provides a clear definition, including actions like receiving, transporting, and harbouring children with the purpose of moving them to different areas or countries for exploitation, which may take various forms." **– KII, KNCHR**

'Child trafficking involves luring children with promises of a better life in a different location, typically outside their home country or region. This often includes elements of recruitment, transportation, transfer and extortion, where a child or their guardian may be fraudulently compelled to pay a certain amount of money in exchange for the promise of a better life or economic empowerment." **– KII, SND**

Further, the levels of awareness of unsafe migration among community members were relatively low. Despite participants in FGDs mentioning various motivations for migration, their comprehension of the risks and perils associated with the migration process was limited. Some of the discussants had this on unsafe migration:

"Maybe migrating because of a disaster" **– FGD Participant, Parents/Caregiver**

"Migrating because of a disease" **– FGD Participant, Teachers**

"Conflicts, leading to migration" **– FGD Participant, Parents/Caregiver**

"Usage of Drugs, fosters unsafe migration" **– FGD Participant, Youth group**

Whereas surveyed respondents may have highlighted some of the broad factors associated with migration, they did not initially consider the nuanced dangers and hardships that migrants often encounter in the process. This suggests a need for increased education and awareness about the complexities of migration, especially in the context of unsafe or forced migration.

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3.3.2.   REACTION TO CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking is considered a heinous crime that exploits and endangers the lives of vulnerable minors, and casts a dark shadow over communities worldwide. Exposure to information or news related to child trafficking elicited a range of emotional responses among respondents. Of the surveyed respondents who admitted that they had ever encountered information or news related to child trafficking in their local community or region, a significant proportion reacted to the news in shock and disbelief [parents (54%), children (50%)], sympathized/empathised with the victims [parents (19%), children (28%)] and angered by the news [parents (13%), children (22%)]. These emotional reactions highlight the profound impact that child trafficking has on individuals and communities, emphasizing the urgent need for effective prevention, protection, and rehabilitation measures to eradicate this scourge from society.
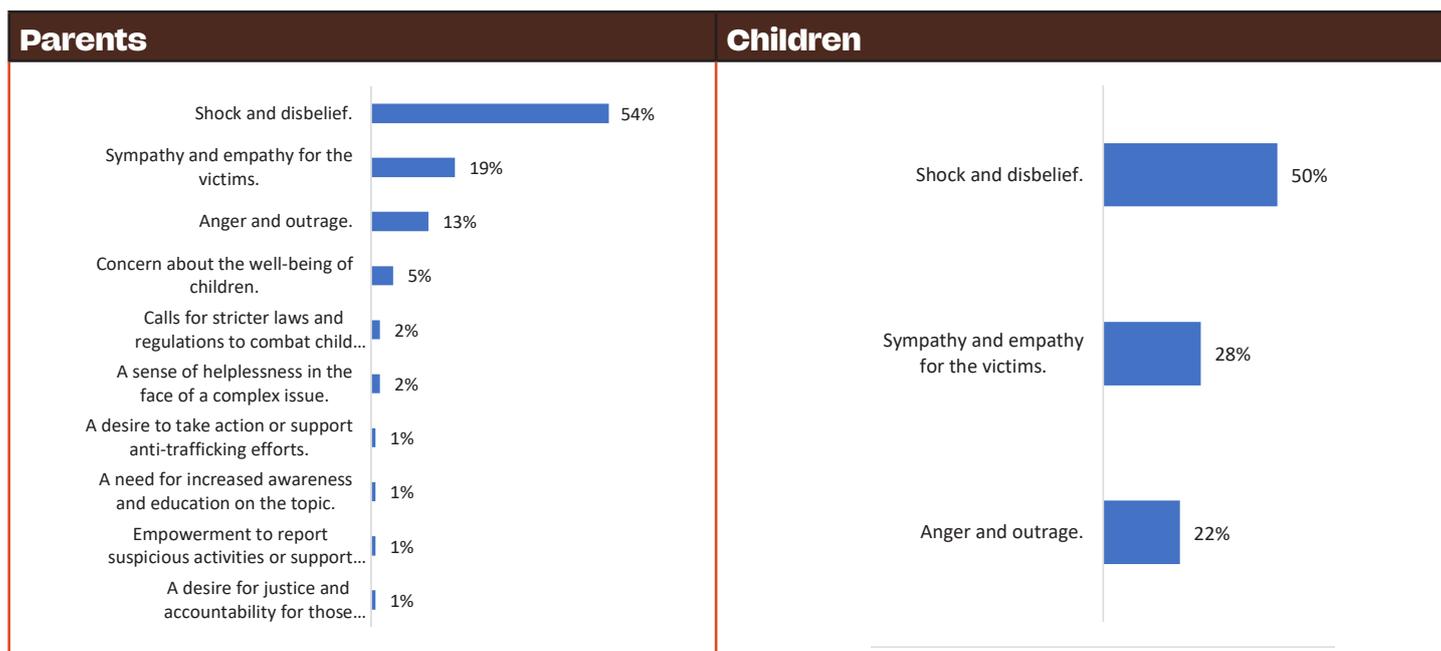
Figure 7: Reaction to News on Child Trafficking

3.3.3.   LEVEL OF INFORMATION ON THE SIGNS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking and sexual exploitation, two interconnected forms of abuse and exploitation, remain pervasive challenges, with vulnerable children bearing the brunt of this injustice. The study established that 84% of the surveyed parents and caregivers were to some extent informed about child trafficking and sexual exploitation but the levels varied from [very much informed (21%), much informed (21%), and just informed (21%)]. On the flip side, 17% were not informed on child trafficking and sexual exploitation, with 15% not informed and 2% completely not informed Of these, slightly more males than females were either not informed or completely not informed about child trafficking and sexual exploitation. In terms of age, the older age groups (46 years and above, were slightly less informed about child trafficking and sexual exploitation compared to their younger counterparts (18 – 45 years) as summarised in the figure below:

Table 6: Level of Information on the signs of Child trafficking and sexual exploitation

	Overall	Gender		Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
Just informed	42%	40%	44%	34%	41%	46%	43%	41%
Very much informed	21%	18%	24%	13%	28%	19%	9%	12%
Much informed	21%	24%	17%	34%	16%	21%	29%	21%
Not informed	15%	15%	14%	19%	13%	13%	20%	18%
Completely not informed	2%	2%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	9%

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3.3.4. SIGNS THAT A CHILD IS / HAS BEEN TRAFFICKED

The top three signs that a child is being trafficked or has been trafficked, according to the surveyed parents and caregivers include fear to speak (40%), change in behaviour (38%) and sudden disappearances (37%). Other key signs include isolation (29%), broken promises (27%), lack of personal possessions (26%) and lack of identification documents (22%). In terms of gender, the fear to speak, change in behaviour and sudden disappearances was cited more by females than males, conversely broken promises, lack of personal possessions and lack of identification documents stood out more for males than their female counterparts as presented below:

Table 7: Signs that a child is being trafficked/has been trafficked

	Overall	Gender		Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34%
Fear to speak	40%	39%	41%	44%	40%	49%	31%	24%
Change in behavior	38%	34%	42%	44%	36%	44%	37%	29%
Sudden disappearances	37%	33%	41%	22%	44%	32%	29%	38%
School discontinuation	32%	33%	32%	44%	32%	28%	31%	38%
Isolation	29%	31%	29%	19%	28%	32%	49%	24%
Broken promises	27%	31%	23%	34%	27%	24%	29%	21%
Lack of personal possessions	26%	28%	24%	38%	26%	22%	37%	12%
Lack of identification documents	22%	27%	17%	28%	20%	23%	23%	15%
Signs of abuse or neglect	19%	22%	16%	25%	20%	16%	11%	18%
Controlled communication	18%	23%	13%	19%	17%	18%	20%	18%
Substance abuse	18%	16%	19%	13%	18%	15%	23%	21%
Controlled finances	16%	23%	9%	16%	17%	15%	11%	15%
Hazardous work conditions	13%	12%	13%	19%	12%	13%	17%	3%
Involvement in commercial sex	13%	13%	12%	19%	12%	13%	14%	6%
Avoidance of medical care	8%	8%	7%	9%	6%	12%	3%	6%
Inconsistent stories	7%	6%	9%	0%	9%	10%	3%	3%
Early pregnancy	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

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3.3.5. PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY FROM CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

Regarding the perceived safety of children from child trafficking and unsafe migration, the survey established that 52% of the surveyed parents/caregivers thought that children in their region are either very safe (22%) or safe (30%) from child trafficking and unsafe migration. On the flip side, 30% indicated some extent of lack of safety [unsafe (24%) and very unsafe (6%)] which implies that quite a considerable proportion of parents/caregivers in Moyale remain apprehensive about the vulnerability of children to these risks. It underscores the importance of addressing and mitigating the factors that contribute to child trafficking and unsafe migration to ensure the well-being of children and safeguard their rights. Detailed findings on this aspect are as presented in the table below.

Table 8: Perceived extent to which children are safe from child trafficking and unsafe migration

	Total	GENDER		AGE GROUP			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35
Very Safe	22%	19%	25%	25%	24%	21%	14%
Safe	30%	29%	30%	16%	27%	37%	46%
Not sure	18%	23%	14%	28%	19%	16%	14%
Unsafe	24%	24%	24%	25%	24%	20%	20%
Very unsafe	6%	5%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%

3.3.6. SIGNS THAT A CHILD IS UNDERGOING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR HAS BEEN SEXU-ALLY EXPLOITED

On the other hand, the key signs that a child is undergoing sexual exploitation or being sexually exploited according to the surveyed parents/caregivers include running away from home or homelessness (44%), sudden behavioural changes (35%), school absenteeism (35%), early marriages (34%) and child pregnancy/parenthood (34%). Findings in terms of age and gender were consistent with the overall findings as presented in the table below:

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Table 9: Signs that a child is undergoing or has been sexually exploited

		Gender		Age Group				
	Total	**Male**	**Female**	**18-24**	**25-35**	**36-45**	**46-55**	**55 and Above**
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
Running away from home or homelessness	44%	41%	46%	56%	45%	44%	40%	32%
Sudden behavioral changes	35%	32%	37%	34%	34%	39%	46%	21%
School absenteeism	35%	31%	38%	34%	36%	35%	40%	21%
Early marriages, often forced or arranged	34%	36%	32%	41%	34%	33%	26%	38%
Child pregnancy or parenthood	34%	32%	35%	28%	33%	41%	37%	24%
Fear and reluctance to disclose	28%	28%	27%	31%	28%	34%	23%	12%
Lack of control over finances	22%	23%	20%	28%	23%	22%	29%	0%
Increased financial contributions to the family	21%	22%	19%	34%	21%	20%	14%	12%
Social isolation	20%	20%	21%	6%	22%	21%	29%	15%
Inappropriate sexual knowledge or promiscuity	17%	21%	13%	16%	15%	19%	23%	12%
Engagement in risky online behavior	17%	15%	18%	13%	18%	20%	14%	9%
STDs and health issues	16%	12%	18%	0%	19%	13%	23%	9%
	Total	**Male**	**Female**	**18-24**	**25-35**	**36-45**	**46-55**	**55 and Above**
Involvement in commercial sex activities	15%	16%	15%	16%	15%	14%	14%	18%
Control over clothing and appearance	15%	14%	15%	28%	14%	16%	9%	9%
Possession of child pornography	10%	10%	10%	3%	14%	11%	3%	3%
Slavery	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%	0%	3%	0%
Low self esteem	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

3.3.7. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CASES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

In cases of child trafficking and sexual exploitation, responsibility for the violation being committed is attributed to various factors and individuals, as per feedback from parents/caregivers. The main party blamed according to 61% of respondents is parents/caregivers who may be considered accountable if they enable exploitation. 43% of the respondents emphasized the role of a lack of awareness and education in indirectly contributing to these issues, underlining the importance of addressing knowledge gaps.

Furthermore, 39% of the public indicated that community members who fail to report concerns also share responsibility, highlighting the collective duty to protect children. Directly responsible for these crimes, traffickers and exploiters are held accountable by 30% of respondents. Less than a third (27%) acknowledged that economic factors, particularly poverty, render families and children vulnerable to exploitation. In terms of who should bare the blame, surveyed parents/caregivers, mainly mentioned parents (66%), government authorities (11%) (indicating a perception that governmental institutions should play a role in addressing and preventing such cases), chiefs, local leaders, or authorities at 9% (suggesting the significance of community leadership in tackling these issues), security officers at 8% (emphasizing the role of law enforcement and security personnel in addressing child trafficking and exploitation) and perpetrators themselves (3%) (Underscoring the accountability of the perpetrators).

These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of child trafficking and sexual exploitation and the need for a comprehensive approach to address and combat these grave concerns

Parties/Bodies/Systems held responsible in instances of child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Parties/Bodies/Systems that should be held responsible in instances of child trafficking and sexual exploitation.
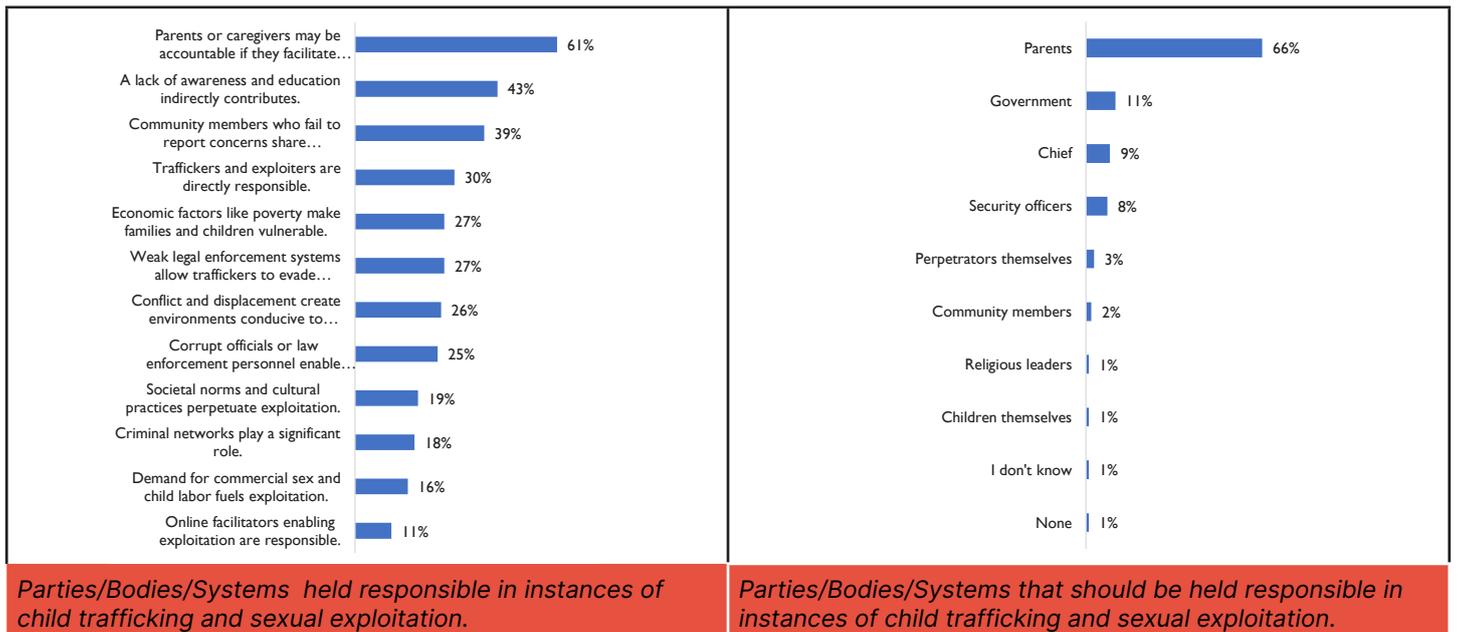
Figure 8: Responsibility for cases of Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration

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3.3.8. PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES AIMED AT PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING

A majority (87%) of the surveyed parents and caregivers have never participated in any community programs/initiatives aimed at preventing child trafficking, of these, 53% were female while 47% were male. Conversely, 13% admitted having attended the programs/initiatives that were aimed at preventing child trafficking.
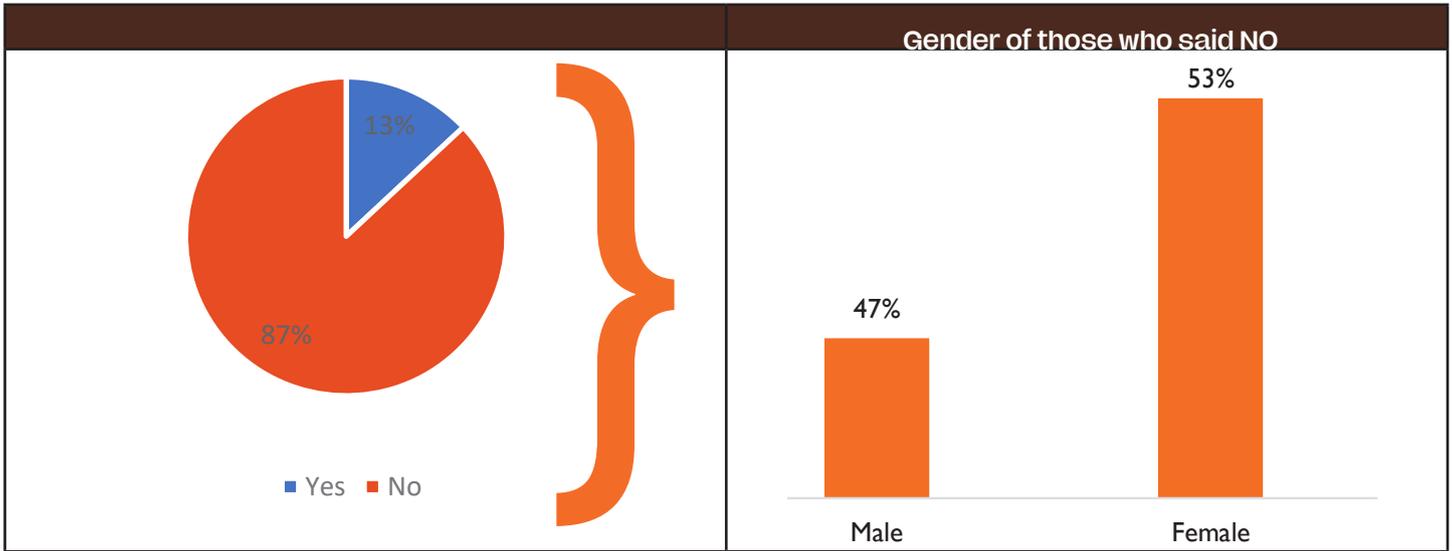
Figure 9: Participation in Community Programs/Initiatives aimed at preventing Child Trafficking

3.3.9. CHILD TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION DISCUSSIONS IN FAMILY SET-UPS

More than half (54%) of the surveyed parents/caregivers either infrequently (46%) or very infrequently (8%), discuss child trafficking and sexual exploitation in their families, indicating a concerning lack of dialogue about these critical issues within family settings. More females than males discuss child trafficking and sexual exploitation in their respective families, highlighting a potential gender disparity in raising awareness and educating children about the risks associated with child trafficking and sexual exploitation. This finding underscores the importance of encouraging open and informed discussions within families, irrespective of gender, to better protect children from such threats. Best practices indicate positive results in the use of household methodologies in ensuring all household members are aware of the potential factors influencing child trafficking in homes and their role in its prevention.
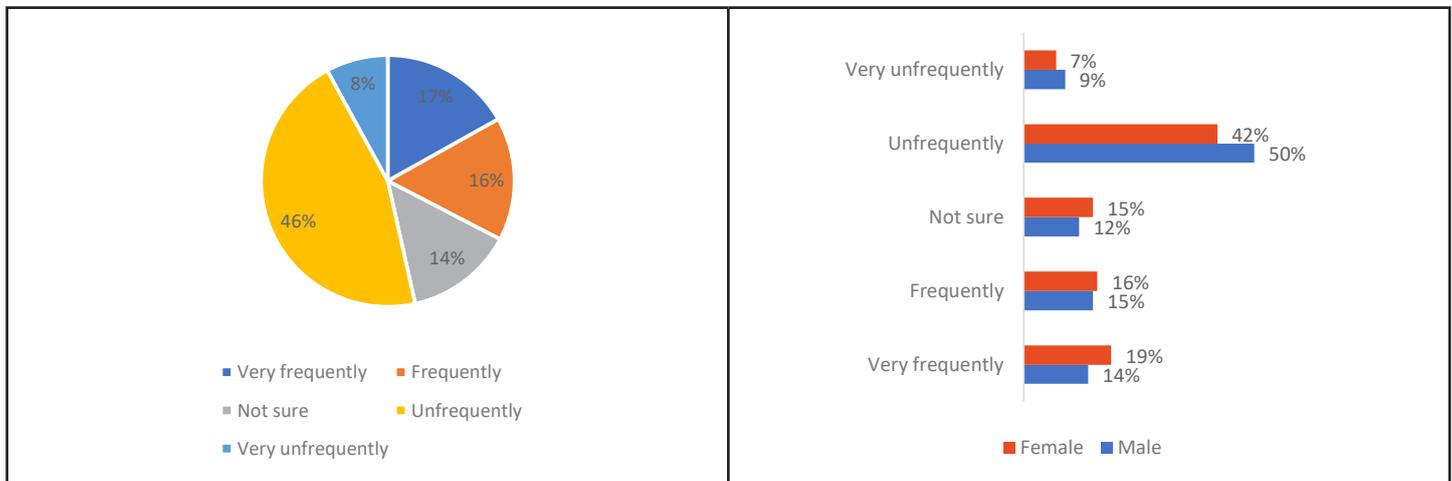
Figure 10: Frequency of discussing child trafficking and sexual exploitation, within the family

3.3.10 FREQUENCY OF DISCUSSING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

In a similar manner, discussions on child trafficking and sexual exploitation at community level are diminished, 45% of the surveyed parents/caregivers highlighted that they either infrequently (37%) or very infrequently (8%) discussed the same in their community. 31% admitted that they did, either very frequently (15%) or frequently (16%), as summarised in in the table below:

Table 10: Frequency of discussing Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, within the Community

		GENDER		**AGE GROUP**				
	Total	**Male**	**Female**	**18-24**	**25-35**	**36-45**	**46-55**	**55 and Above**
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
Very frequently	15%	12%	17%	19%	19%	15%	0%	6%
Frequently	16%	18%	14%	6%	14%	17%	20%	24%
Not sure	24%	27%	23%	31%	23%	26%	29%	21%
Unfrequently	37%	37%	37%	38%	38%	35%	46%	29%
Very unfrequently	8%	6%	9%	6%	6%	7%	6%	21%

3.4. DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE TRAFFICKED

3.4.1. COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE TRAFFICKED

In terms of the common characteristics of victims of child trafficking in Moyale, a majority of the surveyed respondents noted that female (54%) more than males (46%) were victims, as well as children aged below 12 years (53%) compared to children aged 13 – 18 years (47%), those with both parents (35%) compared to children of a single parent (33%) and orphaned (32%), this could be because there might be a false sense of security in such families (with both parents), leading to less vigilance in monitoring potential threats. In addition, orphaned children, surprisingly, had a slightly lower victimization rate compared to the other two categories. This may be occasioned by the support systems in orphanages or extended family networks that provide additional protection and supervision for these children. Further, the victims were mostly from outside Moyale (51%). Notably, a majority of the surveyed parents/caregivers were not familiar (81%) with the victims; others cited that the victims were either neighbours (16%) or part of family (3%). detailed findings are as presented below:
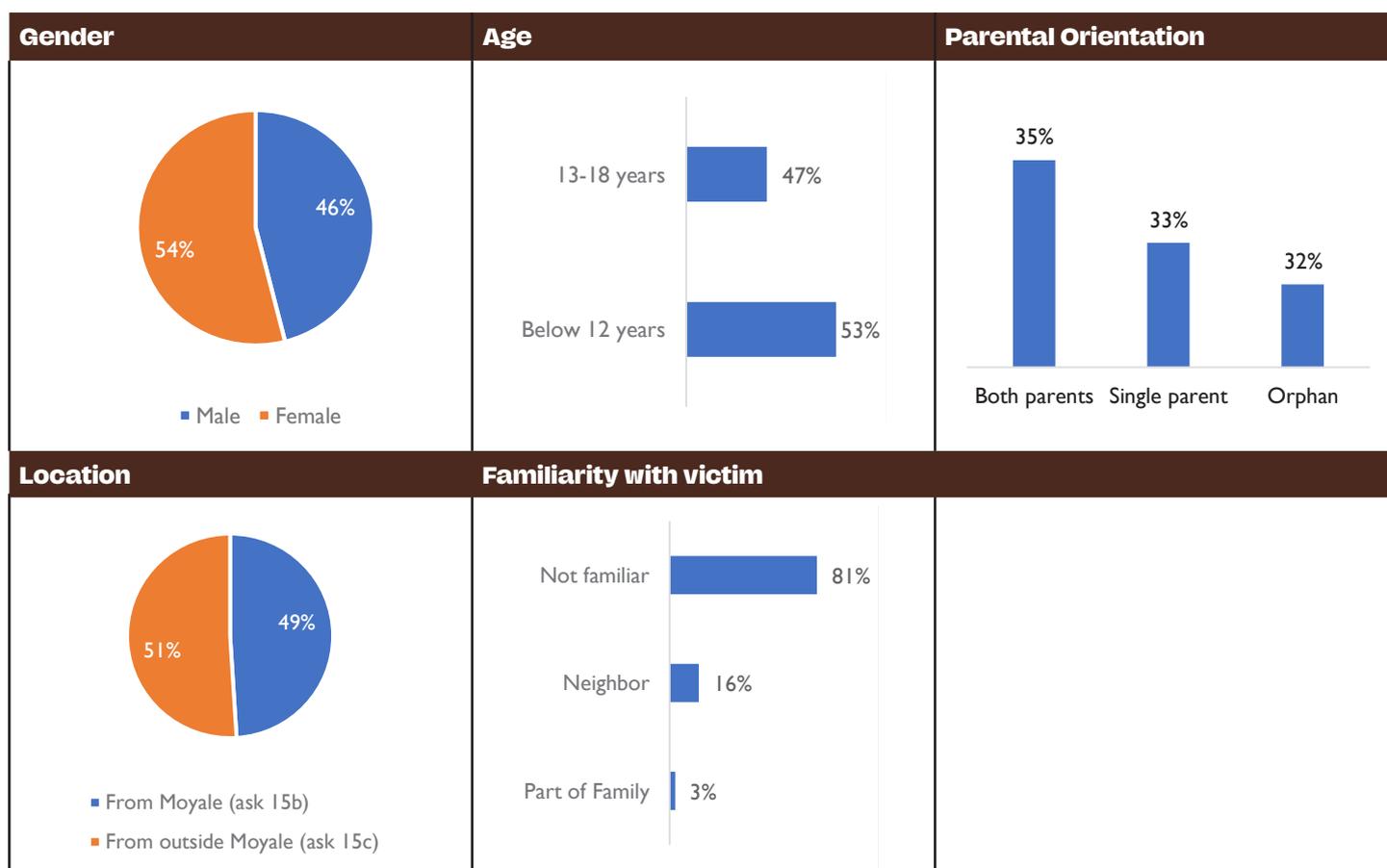
Figure 11: Description of Children being trafficked in Moyale; Parents' Perspective

However, the surveyed children revealed some distinctive patterns. Females (58%) were more common victims than males (42%), and victims were evenly distributed between those below 12 years old (50%) and those aged 13 to 18 years (50%). Children with a single parent (50%) were more vulnerable compared to those with both parents (33%), and orphaned children (17%) were also at risk, this means that regardless of the family setting children are still susceptible to being trafficked. Notably, 50% of the victims were abducted from their own neighbourhoods', although 33% of surveyed children were unaware of these victims. The primary reasons for abduction were for labour (33%), often without parental consent (25%), and for forced marriages (25%).
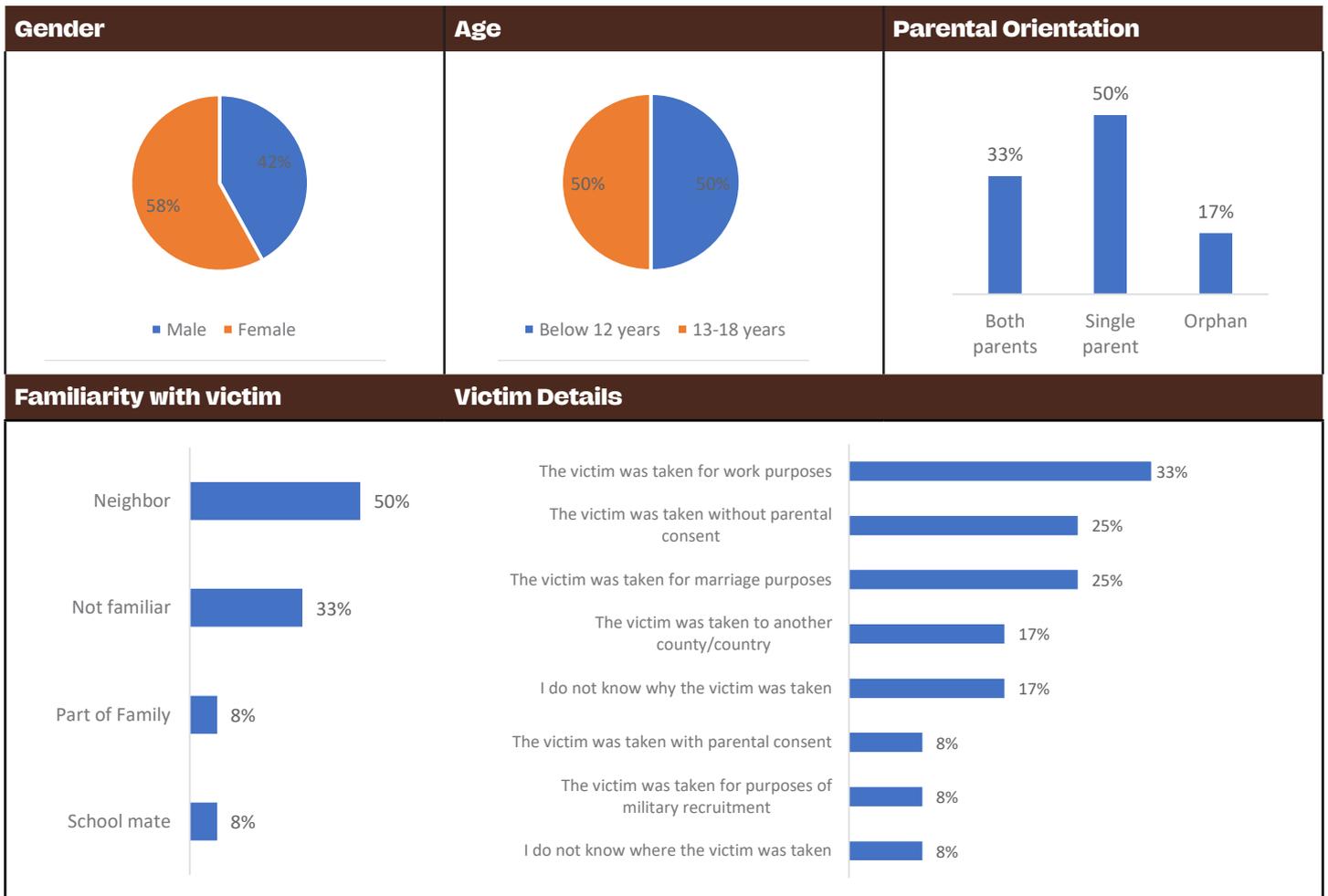
Figure 12:Characteristics of Children being trafficked in Moyale; Children's Perspective

3.4.2. PREDISPOSITION TO CHILD TRAFFICKING

In terms of the category of children that are more predisposed to child trafficking, the study established that, in terms of nationality, Kenyans (57%) more than Ethiopians (35%) and Somalian (7%) are more predisposed. In terms of age group 0 – 5-year olds (21%) and 15 – 17 year (27%) are more predisposed to child trafficking as compared to the other age groups. In terms of ethnicity, both boys and girls among Boranas (35%) Oromos (31%) and Somalis (12%) are most predisposed to trafficking compared other ethnic groups as figure 13 shows

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Nationality
- Kenyan 57%
- Ethiopian 35%
- Somalian 7%
- None 1%

Age
- 15 - 17 years 27%
- 12 - 14 years 19%
- 9 - 11 years 14%
- 6 -8 years 19%
- 0 - 5 years 21%

Gender
- Male 35%
- Female 27%
- Both 38%

Ethnicity
- Borana 35%
- Oromo 31%
- Somali 12%
- Gabra 5%
- Garre 4%
- Sakuye 2%
- Other 5%
- All tribes 1%
- None 1%
- Not specified 4%

Figure 13: Categories of Children more predisposed to Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration in Moyale Sub-County by Ethnicity

3.4.3. ORIGIN OF THE CHILD VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING

With regards to the most recent case, the study established from surveyed parents/caregivers that more than half (51%) were from outside while 49% were from Moyale. A third were mostly migrated to Ethiopia (30%), Nairobi (25%) and within Moyale (15%). Detailed findings are as presented below:

Whether the child victim was from Moyale
- 49%
- 51%
- From Moyale (ask 15b)
- From outside Moyale (ask 15c)

Sub-county/County/Country that the child migrated to?
- Ethiopia 30%
- Nairobi 25%
- Moyale 15%
- Dabel 10%
- Marsabit 10%
- Mandera 3%
- Sololo 2%
- Don't Know 2%
- Borana 1%
- Somali 1%
- Makutano 1%
- Woleyta 1%
- Yaballo 1%
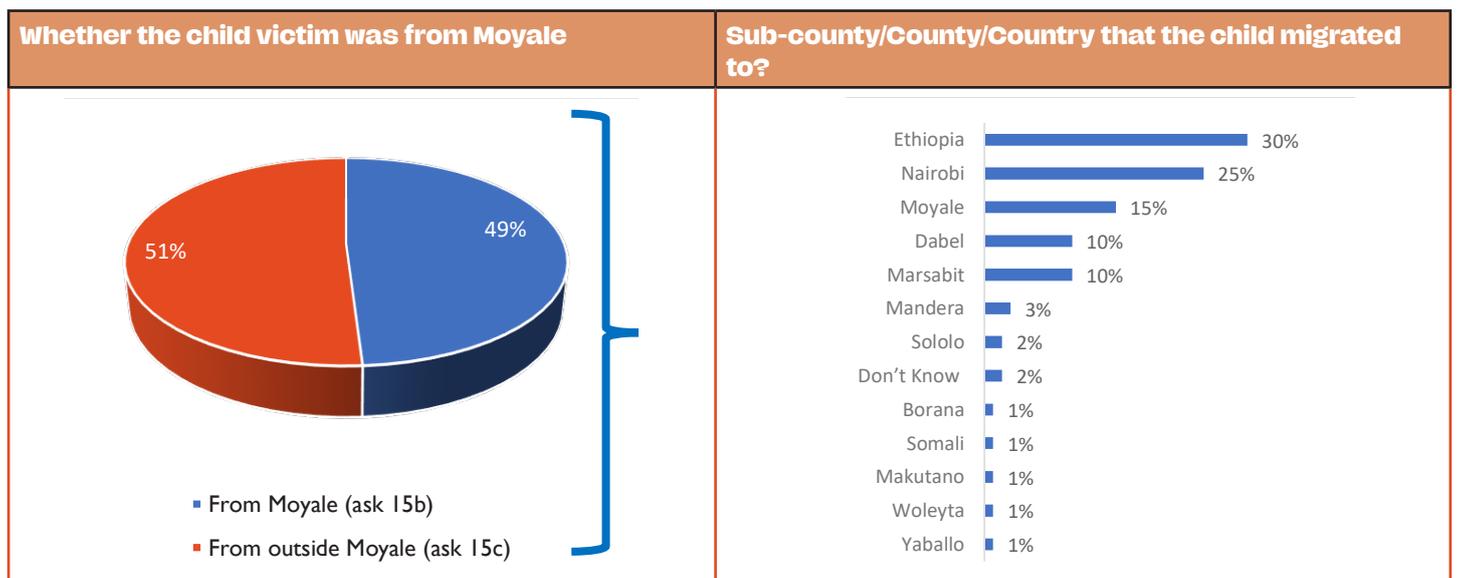
Figure 14: Origin of the Child Victim of Trafficking and Region of Migration

Some of the surveyed respondents had this to say:

"They migrate from Ethiopia to Kenya and Kenya to Ethiopia." **FGD Participant**

Of the surveyed parents/caregivers (51%) who indicated that the child trafficking victim was from outside Moyale, 34% highlighted that they were Ethiopian. Other key mentions, included Woleitta (13%), Borana (11%) and Oromo (5%). These findings reveal the diverse regional and ethnic backgrounds of child trafficking victims who were brought into Moyale from other areas, emphasizing the cross-border and multi-ethnic nature of this issue in the region. Understanding the various origins of victims is crucial for developing targeted prevention and intervention strategies to combat child trafficking effectively

Whether the child victim was from Moyale or from another Sub-County	Community that the child victim came from
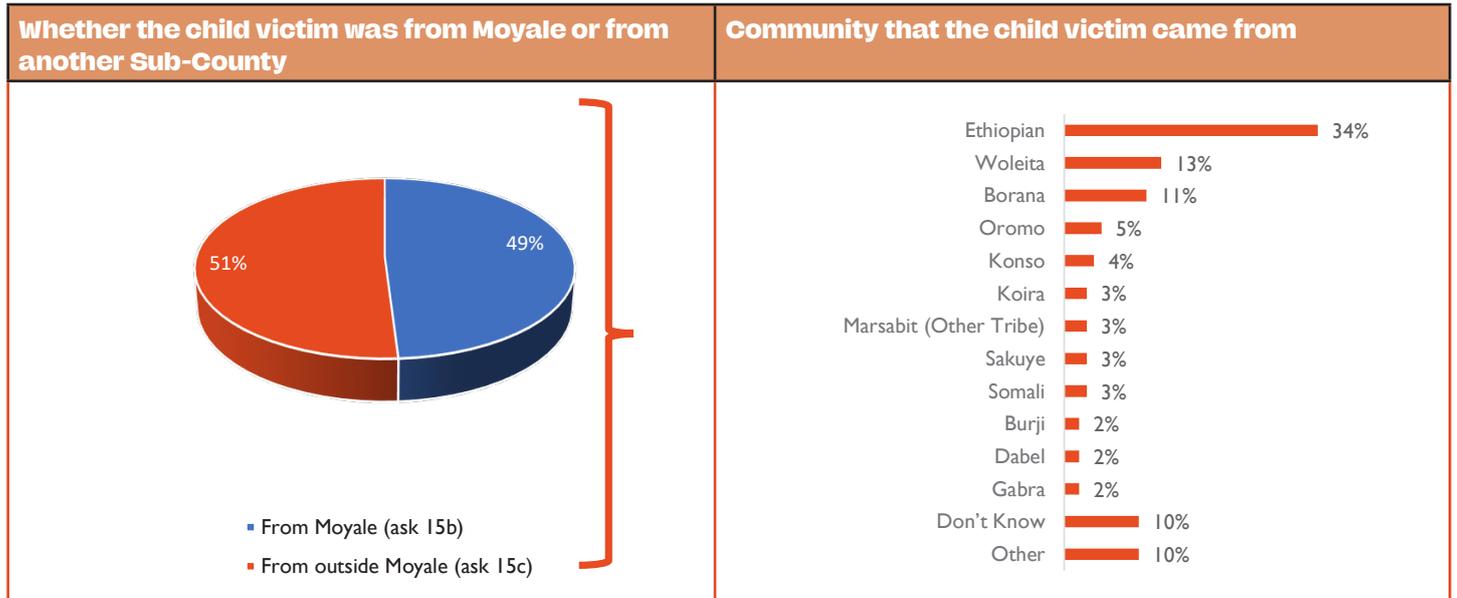
Figure 15: Communities of the Child Victims of Trafficking

3.5. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PERPETRATORS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

3.5.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF PERPETRATORS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

The perpetrators of child trafficking according to surveyed parents/caregivers were mainly male (56%) and in terms of ethnicity were mostly Kenyan (52%) or Ethiopian (35%), and aged between 25 – 45 years (81%). A number were also of Oromo (34%) or Borana (32%) origin. In addition, perpetrators were likely to be neighbour (37%) and hence known to the victim. On a smaller scale they would be unrelated (18%) to the child as the figure below shows:
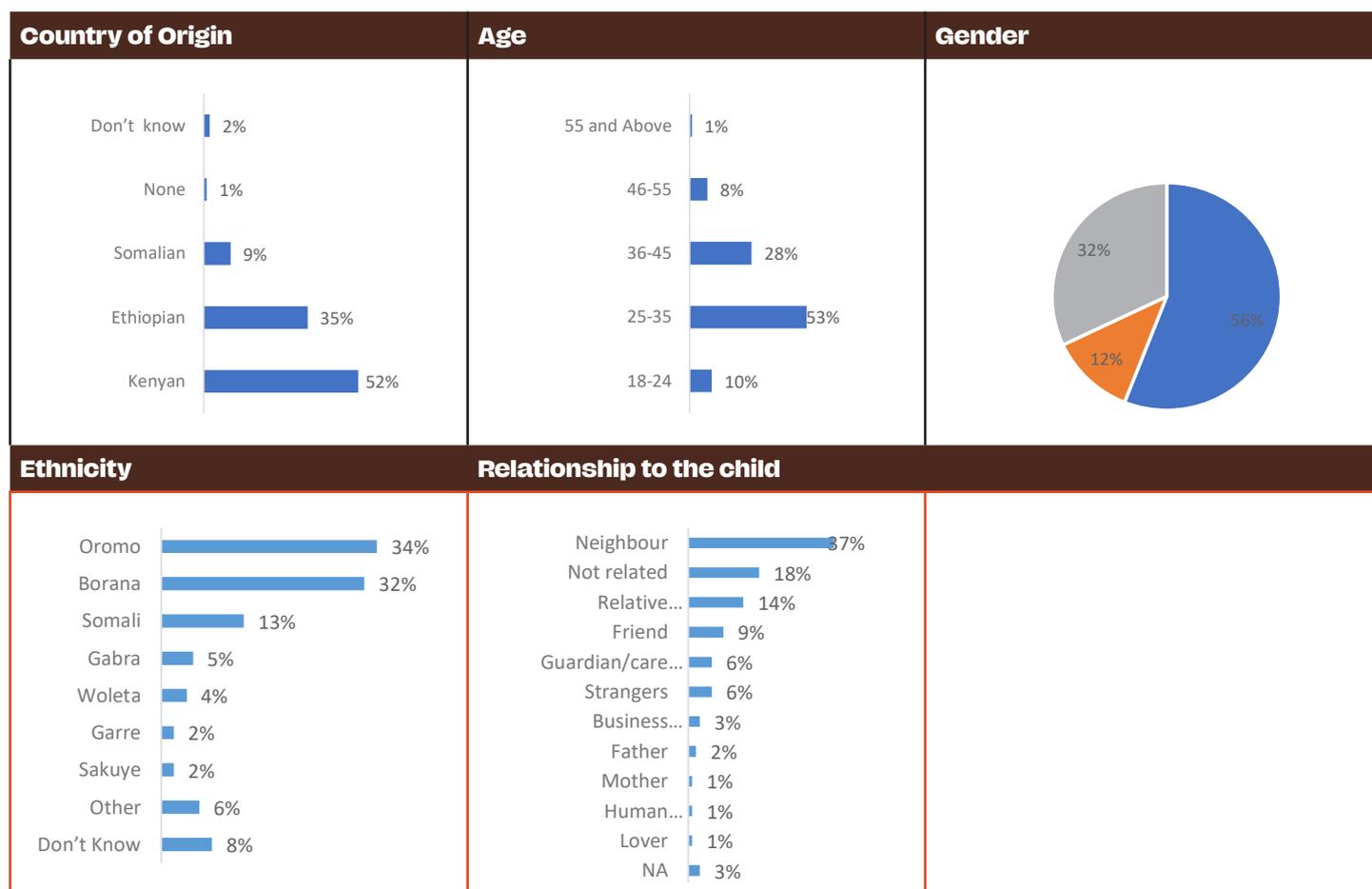
Figure 16: Characteristics of Perpetrators of Child Trafficking; Parents' Perspective

Children Feedback

On their part, surveyed children thought that the main perpetrators responsible for child trafficking/unsafe migration offence were mainly strangers (59%), businesses (53%), criminals (41%) and traffickers (38%), the findings were consistent across all age groups as presented in the figure below:

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Overall	Age Bracket		

Description	Age Bracket		
	8-10	11-14	15-17
Strangers	78%	46%	58%
Businesses	44%	54%	58%
Criminals	33%	46%	42%
Traffickers	22%	54%	33%
Foreign Nationals	22%	23%	33%
Family Members	11%	23%	17%
Employers or Labor Recruiters	0%	8%	33%
Business people but those who do illegal business like organ trafficking.	0%	15%	17%
People in Power	0%	8%	8%
Online Predators	0%	8%	8%

Figure 17: Characteristics of Perpetrators of Child Trafficking; Children's Perspective

3.5.2. THE POSSIBILITY OF VICTIMS BECOMING TRAFFICKERS

With regards to the key factors that drive victims of human trafficking to become traffickers themselves; Financial incentives were identified as the most prominent motivator, reflecting the economic vulnerability of many victims who are enticed by the promise of financial gain. Legal pressure to evade arrest and the fear of violence also played significant roles in driving victims toward trafficking. Limited knowledge about trafficking and the influence of cultural and social norms were additional factors that contributed to this distressing phenomenon. To combat this issue effectively, a comprehensive approach is needed, addressing economic empowerment, legal protection, awareness, and cultural norms to break the cycle of human trafficking and prevent victims from becoming perpetrators.

		GENDER		AGE GROUP				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
Financial incentives offered by traffickers.	56%	61%	51%	63%	49%	65%	74%	38%
Legal pressure to avoid arrest.	36%	29%	41%	25%	36%	44%	37%	15%
Threats and fear of violence.	33%	34%	33%	25%	36%	39%	26%	18%
Limited knowledge about trafficking.	29%	27%	31%	28%	34%	24%	14%	26%
Cultural and social norms.	28%	29%	27%	38%	28%	30%	17%	21%
Psychological manipulation by traffickers.	26%	24%	28%	38%	25%	27%	29%	21%

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Isolation and limited options.	24%	27%	22%	25%	22%	30%	29%	18%
Grooming and manipulation by traffickers.	19%	19%	18%	31%	19%	18%	9%	18%
Desensitization from sustained trauma.	18%	17%	18%	16%	20%	12%	26%	12%
Coercion and survival instincts.	17%	20%	14%	22%	14%	18%	20%	18%
According to my opinion victims realizes that those traffickers gets a lot of money in return	7%	5%	8%	3%	10%	6%	0%	3%
If the victims wants to do re-venge	3%	3%	4%	0%	6%	2%	0%	3%
None	2%	2%	2%	0%	3%	2%	3%	0%
Victims fear to be arrested	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Poverty	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

3.6. RISK FACTORS AND FORMS OF EXPLOITATION FACED BY CHILD SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

3.6.1. DECEPTION TO LEAVE HOME FOR THE PROMISE OF WORK OR GOOD LIFE

Half (50%) of the surveyed children mentioned that they/their siblings/friends had been approached with requests to go away from home and promised work or a good life. This suggests a prevalent pattern of attempts to recruit children into potentially exploitative or dangerous situations, such as child trafficking. The high incidence of such approaches underscores the need for robust awareness campaigns and educational efforts to equip children and their caregivers with the knowledge and skills to identify and resist these potentially harmful solicitations. It also emphasizes the importance of vigilance and intervention to protect vulnerable children from being lured into risky situations.
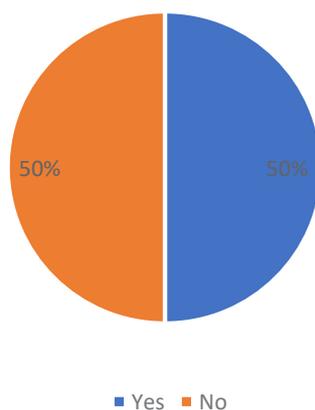
Figure 18: Whether siblings/friends have been approached with requests to go away from home and promised work or good life

3.6.2. FORMS OF EXPLOITATION FACED BY CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking victims endure multiple forms of exploitation. Labor exploitation is the predominant form, affecting 64% of these vulnerable children. Organ trafficking follows closely behind at 46%, marking a perilous practice. Begging, as well as slavery/servitude and forced marriage collectively constitute the third most prevalent form of exploitation at 41%. These children are coerced into begging on the streets, forced to endure harsh conditions akin to modern-day slavery, and compelled into marriages against their will. Additionally, sexual exploitation affects 34% of the victims, posing a severe risk to their physical and psychological well-being. Lastly, forced military recruitment, though less common at 11%, remains a deeply concerning practice, endangering children's lives by coercing them into participating in armed conflicts. Urgent and comprehensive actions are essential to protect these children and combat child trafficking and exploitation in this locality effectively.

Table 11: The most common forms of exploitation that children victims of child trafficking are exposed to in the locality; Parent's Perspective

| | GENDER | | | AGE GROUP | | | | |
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
Labor	64%	68%	60%	69%	64%	60%	77%	56%
Organ trafficking	46%	44%	47%	38%	48%	49%	40%	38%
Begging	41%	40%	42%	38%	43%	49%	40%	15%
Slavery/servitude	41%	44%	39%	53%	39%	49%	46%	18%
Forced Marriage	41%	37%	43%	41%	42%	43%	40%	26%
Forced Military Recruitment	11%	13%	8%	9%	8%	14%	9%	18%
Sexual Exploitation	34%	36%	32%	38%	33%	36%	43%	18%

Children

According to half (50%) the surveyed children, the most common form of exploitation that children victims of child trafficking are exposed to in Moyale county is forced labour. Another quarter (25%) mentioned abduction suggesting that some children are forcibly taken from their homes or communities, whereas 25% highlighted physical abuse and being beaten. These findings shed light on the diverse and distressing types of exploitation that children in the region may face, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to address and prevent child trafficking and its associated abuses.

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Figure 19: The most common forms of exploitation that children victims of child trafficking are exposed to in the locality: Children and Government Stakeholders

Findings from the qualitative phase indicate that risk factors are gendered and dependent on age. Girls are said to be more prone to sexual exploitation and domestic work, while boys are more likely to be exposed to manual farm work, herding, hawking of foodstuffs or fetching and selling water around urban centres. In terms of age, girls are said to be more "attractive" from age 12 and above but boys are in demand at an earlier age e.g 8 years at which point they are allocated light domestic work but as they grown into teenagers, they are best suited for outdoor manual jobs.

3.7. LOCAL CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSING OR COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION IN MARSABIT COUNTY.

In the ongoing battle against child trafficking in Kenya, the country has taken significant measures aimed at addressing this pressing issue. These measures encompass various facets of prevention, intervention, and support, reflecting a concerted effort to combat child trafficking effectively. One critical aspect of Kenya's strategy involves the establishment of a robust legal framework to tackle child trafficking. The Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act (2010) serves as a cornerstone of this framework, providing the necessary legal tools to combat child trafficking comprehensively. Furthermore, the government has taken proactive steps by creating the Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, which plays a pivotal role in coordinating efforts across various sectors to combat trafficking more efficiently.

International cooperation forms another significant pillar of Kenya's anti-child trafficking effort. Collaborating closely with international organisations and foreign governments, Kenya engages in the exchange of critical information and resources. This collaboration strengthens its capacity to respond effectively to child trafficking, recognizing that this is a global issue that requires a unified approach.

Awareness and prevention initiatives also play a crucial role in Kenya's strategy. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations are at the forefront of these efforts. They work tirelessly to raise awareness about the grave consequences of child trafficking, educating communities about the risks involved. Additionally, these organizations provide essential support to at-risk children and survivors, aiming to create a protective environment and offer a lifeline to those affected by trafficking. Moreover, various organizations have established rehabilitation and reintegration programs specifically tailored to trafficked children. These programs offer psychosocial support, educational opportunities, and vocational training, equipping survivors with the tools and skills needed to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society.

Despite these commendable efforts, child trafficking in Kenya remains a significant concern. Findings on borderland-related crimes and security threats in Kenya indicate that there are Border Management Committees tasked with security issues in Kenya's border areas (Moyale Kenya/Ethiopia), they draw

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membership from institutions such as the Kenya Revenue Authority, National Police Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Immigration Department, National Intelligence Service, Ministry of Health, Kenya Ports Authority and National Government Administration Office. However, these agencies have not been able to work seamlessly thus affecting their performance negatively in terms of crime and security management in the border areas (NCRC, 2018). This probably explains the reason why human trafficking is still high despite the efforts of these organizations. Hence there is need for positive involvement and enhanced and mutual collaboration between the organizations dealing with human trafficking in the country. According to Kenya's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Government is committed to address human trafficking by strengthening of relevant partnerships.

The combined efforts of the government, NGOs, and international partners signify a determined commitment to combat child trafficking. These efforts encompass legislative measures, awareness campaigns, and comprehensive support for victims. To achieve the ultimate goal of eradicating child trafficking in Kenya and safeguarding the rights of its children, continued research and a collective endeavour at the local, national, and international levels are imperative. Only through these concerted actions can Kenya strive to create a safer and more secure future for its children.

3.7.1. LEVEL OF CAPACITY OF PARENTS/CAREGIVERS IN PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

When it comes to assessing the capacity of the surveyed parents and caregivers to protect their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration, 22% of the surveyed parents/caregivers lack the capacity [Low capacity (17%) and no capacity (5%)] to protect their child/children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. About three in every four (75%) admitted that to some extent, they exhibit the capacity [high capacity (48%), moderate capacity (27%)] to protect their child/children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. These results highlight a range of self-perceived capacity levels among parents and caregivers, emphasizing the need for tailored support and educational initiatives to empower those who may lack confidence in protecting their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration.

Table 12: Rating on the Level of Capacity as a Parent/Caregiver, in protecting children against child trafficking and unsafe migration

		GENDER		AGE GROUP				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
High capacity	48%	46%	50%	41%	44%	58%	46%	50%
Moderate capacity	27%	23%	31%	19%	31%	24%	23%	29%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	6%	1%	4%	3%	0%
Low capacity	17%	22%	13%	28%	21%	8%	17%	12%
No Capacity	5%	6%	4%	6%	3%	5%	11%	9%

Children

In tandem with findings for parents/caregivers, a total of 24% of the surveyed children have either low capacity (18%) or no capacity (6%)] to protect themselves against child trafficking and unsafe migration. More than three in every five (64%) admitted that to some extent, they exhibited the capacity [high capacity (35%), moderate capacity (29%)] to protect themselves against child trafficking and unsafe migration. Like parents/caregivers the varying levels of self-perceived capacity among children to protect themselves against child trafficking and unsafe migration, highlight the need for targeted support, awareness, and educational programs to empower children and enhance their ability to safeguard themselves from these risks
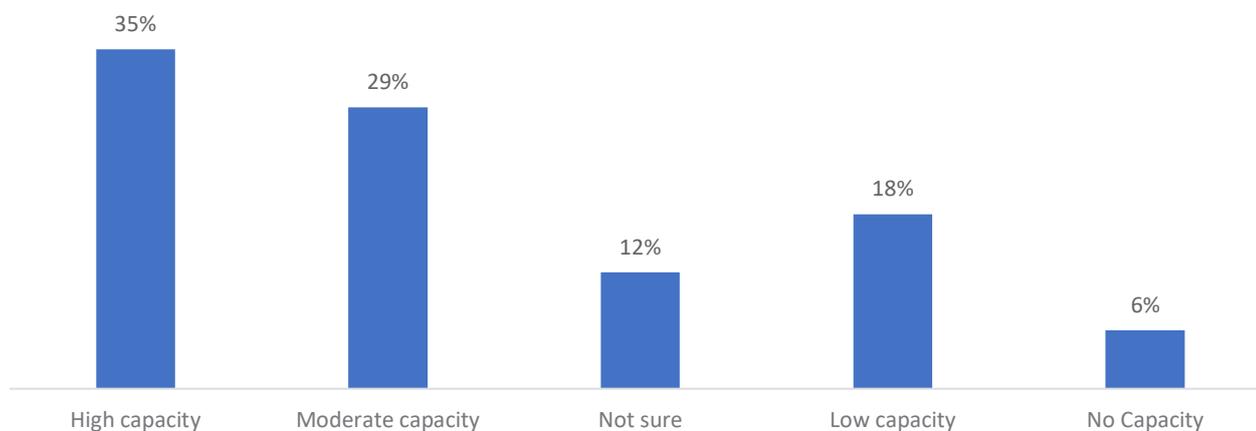
Figure 20: Rating of the Level of Capacity of children to protect themselves against Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration

3.7.2. LEVEL OF CAPACITY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS IN PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

Among the surveyed parents/caregivers there are diverse perceptions on the capacity of local administrative leaders, such as chiefs to protect children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. Three in every ten (30%) of parents/caregivers said there was no capacity [low capacity by 22% and no capacity by 8%by local administrative leaders. Conversely, 69% positively indicated high capacity (29%) and moderate capacity (30%)] of their local administrative leaders in addressing child trafficking and unsafe migration. These contrasting views among parents/caregivers reflect the varied perceptions of the effectiveness of local administrative leaders in dealing with child trafficking and unsafe migration. It suggests the need for continued evaluation and support to enhance the capabilities of these leaders or to address any existing gaps in efforts to protect children from such risks.

Table 13: Rating of the Level of Capacity of local administrative leaders in protecting children against child trafficking: Parents

		GENDER		AGE GROUP				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
High capacity	29%	27%	31%	28%	29%	35%	11%	29%
Moderate capacity	30%	30%	31%	28%	30%	34%	40%	15%
Not sure	11%	11%	12%	16%	10%	9%	14%	15%
Low capacity	22%	25%	19%	22%	25%	16%	23%	21%
No Capacity	8%	8%	7%	6%	6%	6%	11%	21%

Children Perspective

Like parents/caregivers, surveyed children portrayed varied opinions regarding the capacity of local administrative leaders, such as chiefs, in protecting children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. Of those surveyed, 32% held negative views, with 26% indicating low capacity and 6% suggesting no capacity among local administrative leaders, such as chiefs, to protect them from child trafficking and unsafe migration. On the flip side, a significant 50% expressed positive views on the capacity of their local administrative leaders to counter issues of child trafficking and unsafe migration
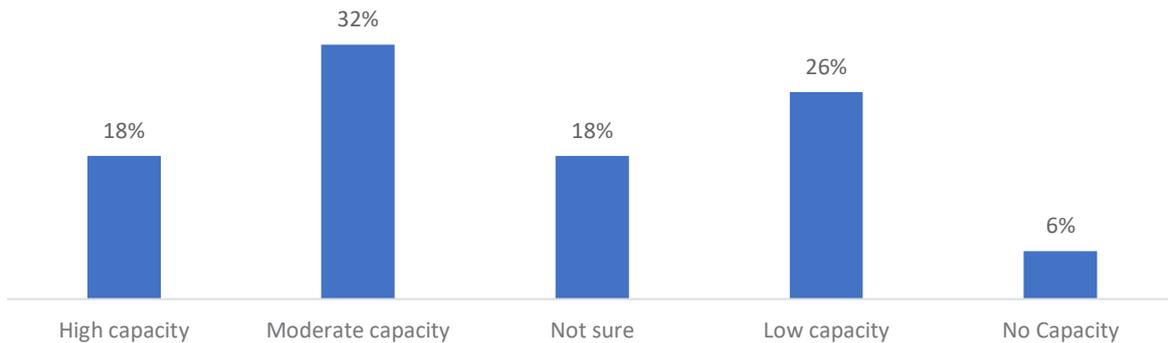
Figure 21: Rating of the Level of Capacity of local administrative leaders in protecting children against child trafficking: Children Perspective

3.7.3. LEVEL OF CAPACITY OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS IN PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

A significant proportion (41%) of the parents/ caregivers, indicated that their county administrative leaders such as governor and county commissioners lack the capacity [low capacity (23%) and no capacity (18%)] to protect their children in the county against child trafficking and unsafe migration. On the other hand, 43% were of the opinion that their county administrative leaders, to some extent, exhibited the capacity [high capacity (26%) and moderate capacity (17%)], to protect their child/children in your county against child trafficking and unsafe migration.

Table 14: Rating of the Level of Capacity of County Administrative leaders in protecting children against child trafficking

		GENDER		AGE GROUP				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	55 and Above
Total	380	177	203	32	181	98	35	34
High capacity	26%	24%	28%	25%	25%	29%	14%	35%
Moderate capacity	17%	14%	20%	25%	17%	16%	26%	3%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%	9%	15%	22%	14%	9%
Low capacity	23%	22%	24%	22%	25%	20%	20%	24%
No Capacity	18%	21%	16%	19%	18%	12%	26%	29%

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In terms of underlying gaps, key informants noted that whereas Kenya has established a strong legal framework and child protection systems, the main challenges lie in creating awareness about trafficking laws and policies and in the effective implementation of these systems. Addressing these issues requires ongoing capacity-building efforts and continuous training for those involved in child protection to enhance their ability to recognize and combat child trafficking effectively.

"The legal framework in Kenya is robust, and child protection systems are in place. However, the effectiveness of these systems often faces challenges related to awareness and implementation. Many community-based structures exist, such as area advisory committees and volunteer children officers.

Still, their ability to recognize child trafficking cases and collaborate with service providers is limited by the lack of awareness about relevant laws and policies. The primary gap is in the implementation of these systems, and there's a need to empower and educate those involved in child protection structures about counter-trafficking laws and policies." - KII, AHTCPU

"It's essential that we provide capacity-building opportunities for these individuals because child trafficking is a complex issue that often goes unrecognized. Awareness of this problem is generally low, and identifying trafficking cases can be challenging. This is why continuous training is crucial to improve their ability to detect and respond to trafficking and related issues" **– KII, CTiP Staff**

3.7.4. BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF PARENTS/CAREGIVERS IN PROTECTING THEIR CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

To bolster the capacity of parents and caregivers in safeguarding their children from child trafficking and unsafe migration in the community, several key recommendations emerged. A significant proportion of the surveyed parents/caregivers, at 38%, advocated for the implementation of educational workshops aimed at raising awareness and equipping parents and caregivers with the knowledge required to recognize, prevent, and respond to these threats. Furthermore, 34% of participants stressed the importance of training parents to become advocates for child protection policies and rights at both local and national levels, empowering them to proactively address these issues.

Approximately 33% of respondents expressed a desire for educational support to enhance parents' knowledge and skills in child protection, while an equal percentage (33%) highlighted the necessity of educating parents about online safety and monitoring their children's digital activities. In addition, 32% supported the idea of helping parents create emergency plans to respond effectively to potential trafficking situations. These recommendations collectively underpin the community's commitment to providing parents with the tools they need to ensure the safety and well-being of their children in the face of these pressing challenges.

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| Recommendation	Percentage
Conduct workshops to educate parents and caregivers about child trafficking and unsafe migration risks, prevention, and response.	38%
Train parents to advocate for child protection policies and rights at local and national levels.	34%
Support parents in gaining knowledge and skills through education, enhancing their ability to advocate for their children.	33%
Educate parents about online safety and monitoring their child's digital activities.	33%
Help parents create emergency plans to respond to potential trafficking situations.	32%
Encourage vocational training and small business development to improve family financial stability.	29%
Promote cooperation between parents, caregivers, and local authorities to address child protection issues.	29%
Encourage open communication with children about risks and empower them to speak up if they feel unsafe.	28%
Keep parents informed about the latest child trafficking and migration risks.	27%
Set up reporting mechanisms for parents to report suspicious activities related to child trafficking or unsafe migration/Hotlines.	26%
Create and disseminate information through posters, meetings, and social media to raise awareness about child protection in the community.	25%
Facilitate peer support groups where parents can share experiences and strategies for protecting their children.	25%
Establish safe, supervised environments for children after school to reduce their vulnerability to exploitation.	25%
Offer counseling services for parents dealing with stress and trauma from child trafficking or migration issues.	21%

Figure 22: Recommendations on how to build the capacity of parents/caregivers towards protecting their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION (BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA) TO TRANSFORM SOCIAL
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3.8. CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION IN MARSABIT COUNTY

3.8.1. AWARENESS OF SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES IN PLACE AT COMMUNITY LEVEL, TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

Almost all (94%) of the surveyed parents/caregivers indicated there were no systems and processes in place at community level to prevent the occurrence of child trafficking and unsafe migration. On the flip side only 6% of respondents mentioned that they were aware of these. In addition, 77% mentioned reporting to the chief and elders in the community, whereas 14% mentioned creating awareness in the community as presented below


Are you aware of any systems and processes in place at community level, to prevent the occur-rence of child trafficking and unsafe migration?	Please describe the systems and processes available n=22
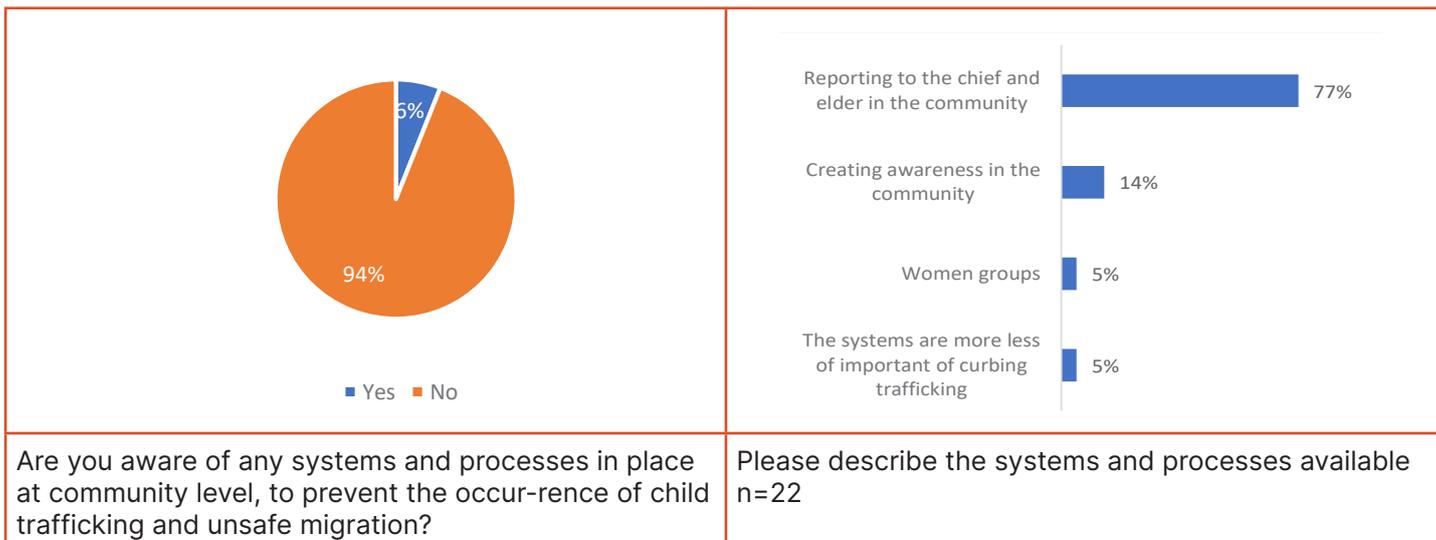
Figure 23: Awareness of systems and processes in place at community level, to prevent the occurrence of child trafficking and unsafe migration

Government Stakeholders

In contrast to the findings among surveyed parents, government stakeholders in Kenya displayed a notably different perspective regarding formal procedures or protocols for the identification of children who are victims of unsafe migration and child trafficking. A majority (82%), of government stakeholders, acknowledged the existence of such formal procedures or protocols. Among this group, more than half, specifically 55%, believed that these procedures were moderately effective in their role. Meanwhile, 27% of the government stakeholders expressed the view that the formal procedures were not effective, suggesting room for improvement in their implementation. On the other hand, 18% of the stakeholders felt that the existing procedures were highly effective in identifying child trafficking and unsafe migration victims.

Comparisons between the categories of respondents indicate a disconnect between the community and government officers or the official channels that are supposed to ensure protection of vulnerable groups and offer safeguards against trafficking and unsafe migration. In addition, given the high mentions made of the chief, communities experience government machinery through the chief, hence chiefs can be an important collaborator in designing any programs that address child trafficking in the study region. However, there is need to ensure chiefs as an institution are linked to other services and that community members are empowered to understand these crucial links.

| Formal procedure/protocol in place for the identification of children victims of unsafe migration & child trafficking in Kenya	Effectiveness of the formal procedure/protocol in place for the identification of children victims of unsafe migration & child trafficking in Kenya?
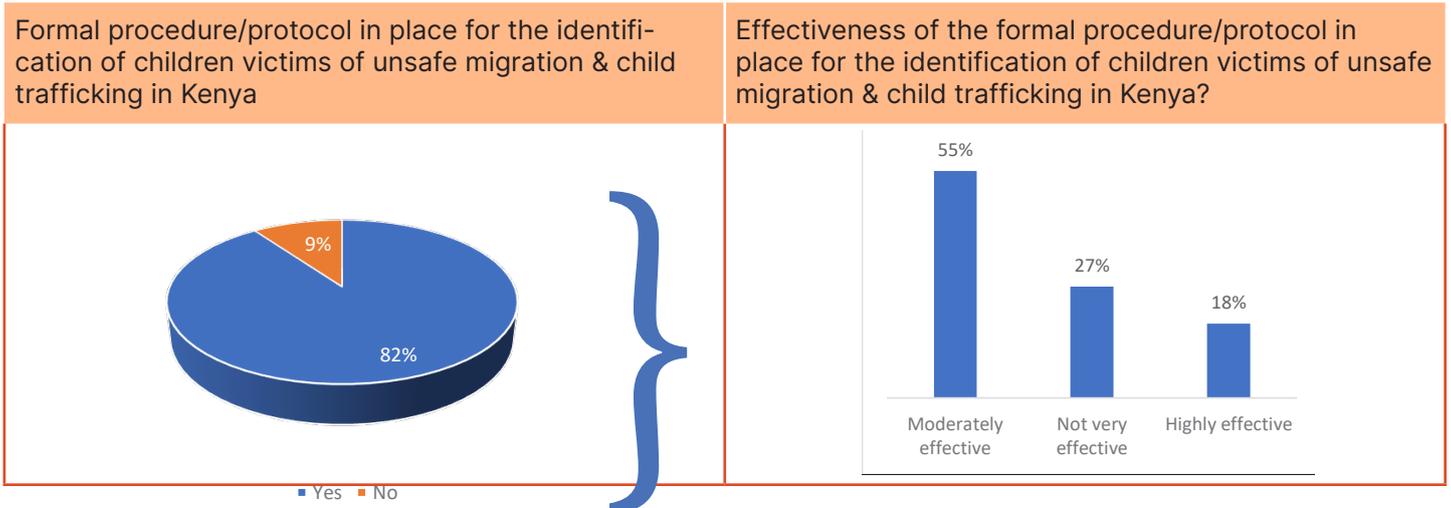
Figure 24: Formal procedure/protocol for the identification of children victims of unsafe migration & child trafficking in Kenya

3.8.2. REPORTED CASES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

Study findings revealed that a significant proportion (45%) of the government stakeholders received less than ten cases of child trafficking and unsafe migration on a monthly basis. 27% mentioned that they received 11 – 20 cases, on the other hand 18% receive 21 cases and above. This demonstrates that a majority of the government stakeholders dealt with a relatively low number of incidents. The distribution of cases suggests that the prevalence of child trafficking and unsafe migration varies across different regions or jurisdictions. It also implies that efforts to combat these issues, such as prevention, intervention, and law enforcement, need to be tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each area. Additionally, the findings indicate the necessity for increased awareness and capacity-building in regions with lower reported cases to ensure effective responses and protection of children at risk.

In terms of the main challenges experienced, the survey established that the main ones were inadequate financial resources (50%), inadequate technical capacity of duty bearers (25%) and legal & policy gaps (25%)
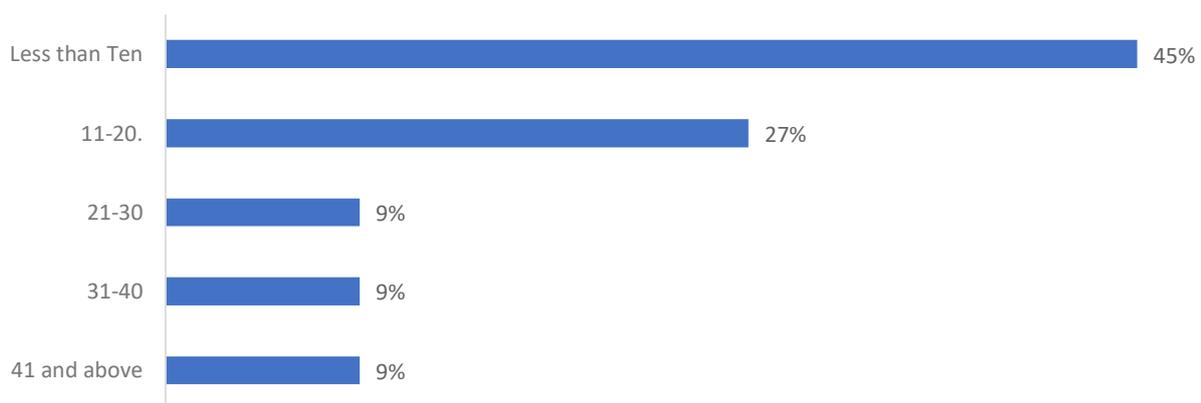

*Figure 25: Reported cases of child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration*
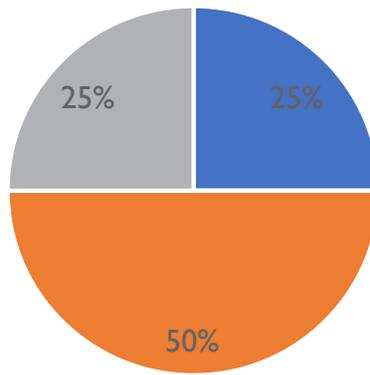
- ■ Inadequate technical capacities of duty bearers
- ■ Inadequate financial resources
- ■ Legal & Policy Gaps

Figure 26: Main challenges Experienced

3.8.3. RESOLUTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING CASES

The study found that the majority of the stakeholders, comprising 63%, reported that they were able to address more than 50% of the cases reported. This indicates a high level of success and competence among these stakeholders in addressing the reported cases. Nonetheless, more work needs to be done in order to further, bolster the success rates
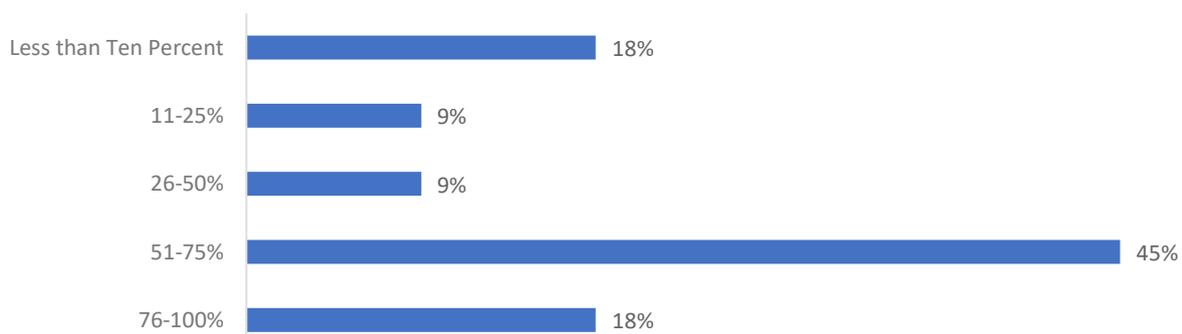
Figure 27: Percentage of Cases of Child Trafficking that are resolved

3.8.4. PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION BETWEEN RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

A majority (91%) of the surveyed government stakeholders mentioned that so far, the partnerships and coordination between the relevant government agencies has been somewhat effective [moderately effective (18%), or highly effective (73%)], (9%) of the government stakeholders were indifferent. This positive trend bodes well for addressing issues related to child trafficking and unsafe migration, as efficient collaboration can lead to more successful outcomes and better protection of vulnerable individuals. However, it's important to continuously monitor and improve this coordination to address any remaining challenges and provide the best support possible.

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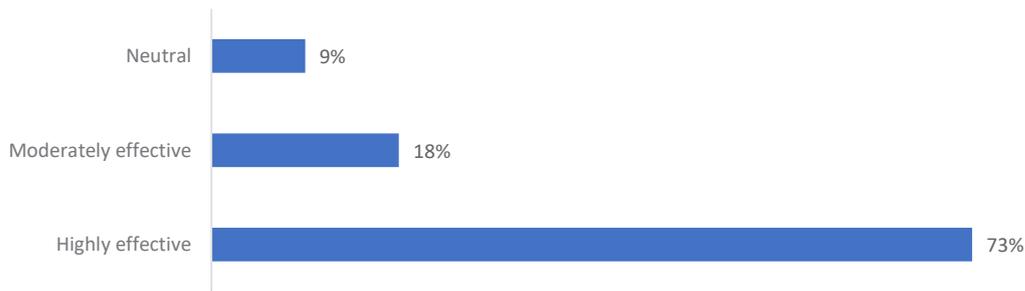
Figure 28: Partnerships and coordination between the relevant government agencies and stakeholders

3.8.5. CAPACITY BUILDING ON MECHANISMS TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION ISSUES

While a majority (55%) of the surveyed government executives admitted that they/their colleagues had received training on how to identify and address offences related to child trafficking & unsafe migration, there was still a significant proportion (45%) not trained. Of those who indicated that they had received training, 67% had received it courtesy of a national/county seminar training whereas 33% had obtained it in the line of duty. In light of these findings, it's essential to address the training gap and ensure

that government executives, particularly those who have not received training, are adequately equipped to identify and address child trafficking and unsafe migration offenses. Furthermore, understanding the varying sources of training highlights the need to balance structured, formal education with experiential learning to create a well-rounded and effective training program. This could lead to a more capable and prepared government response to these serious issues.

| Government officers' receipt of training to identify and address offences related to child trafficking & unsafe migration and, child friend-ly ways of addressing child trafficking and un-safe ways as well as trauma informed	Training Received
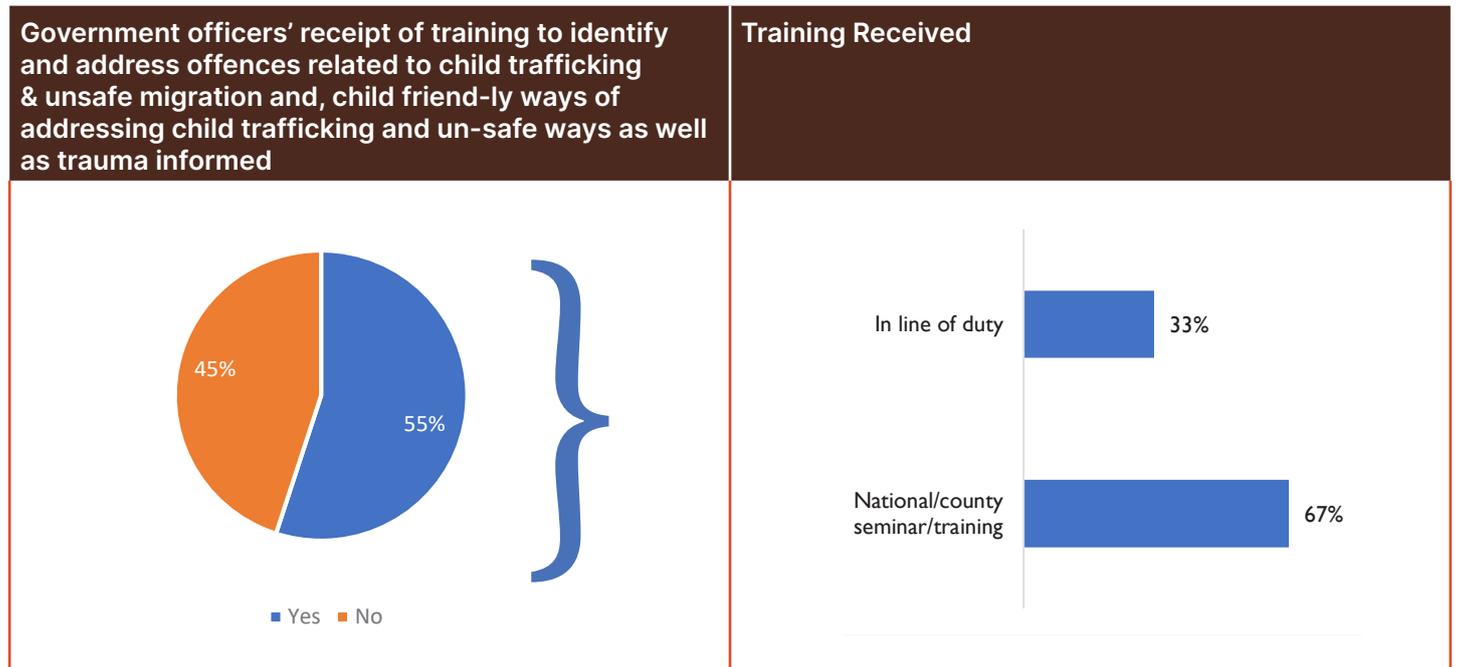
Figure 29: Training on how to identify and address offences related to child trafficking and unsafe migration

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In terms of who organized the training for government stakeholders, more than half (67%) reported that it was organized by NGOs, and 33% mentioned national/county government
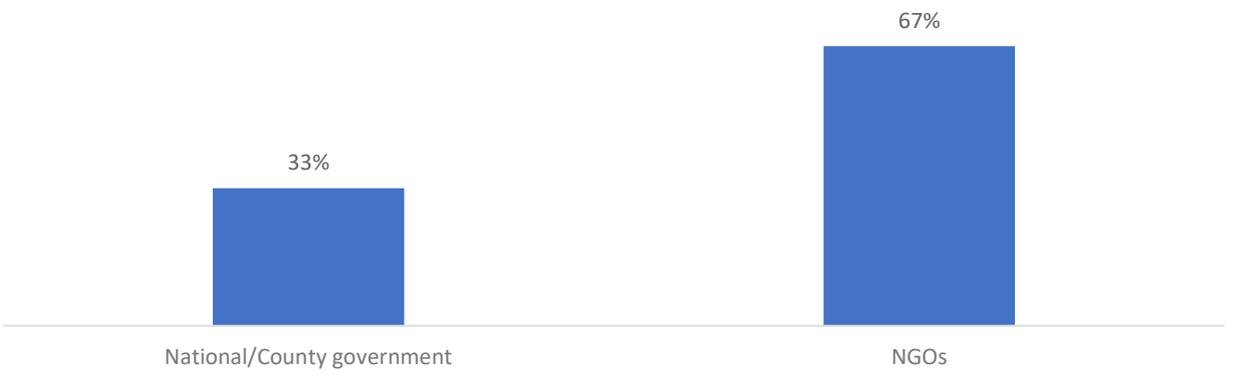

Figure 30: Organizers of the training

Parents

Of the surveyed parents who admitted that systems existed to prevent incidences of child trafficking and unsafe migration, 41% rated the effectiveness of these systems as very poor or poor. On the other hand, 46% positively rated the effectiveness of the systems as good or excellent. Some of the respondents, portrayed scepticism about the effectiveness of child protection systems. Despite their existence, they felt that the systems were not functioning as intended, indicating a need for improvements for increased effectiveness:

"The system for protecting our children are there, but for me I do not think they are working" **- FGD, Parents**

In contrast to this, some respondents generally had positive experience with the child protection systems. One such case is where a respondent mentioned that the systems successfully led to the apprehension of individuals involved in harming children. This suggests that, in some instances, the systems are indeed effective and achieving their intended goals.

*"For me, the systems are working, because I saw a case where the bad people were captured"* **- FGD, Parents**
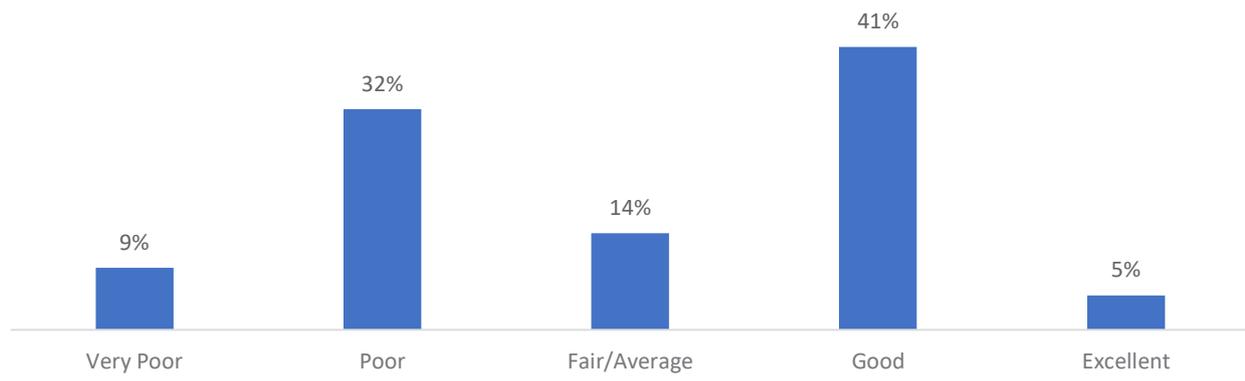
Figure 31: Rating of the effectiveness of the systems in preventing instances of child trafficking and unsafe migration

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3.8.6. GAPS IN THE SYSTEMS IN PREVENTING INSTANCES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

The most prominent concern was the perceived inaction within the system, cited by half (50%) of the respondents. Additionally, issues such as a lack of social education and illiteracy, insufficient support, financial constraints, inadequate laws, and the presence of fear were identified as barriers to effective child trafficking prevention. Addressing these gaps is essential to strengthen the child protection system, improve responsiveness, enhance public education, provide support services, secure adequate funding, strengthen legal frameworks, and mitigate fears that may hinder reporting and intervention in child trafficking cases.
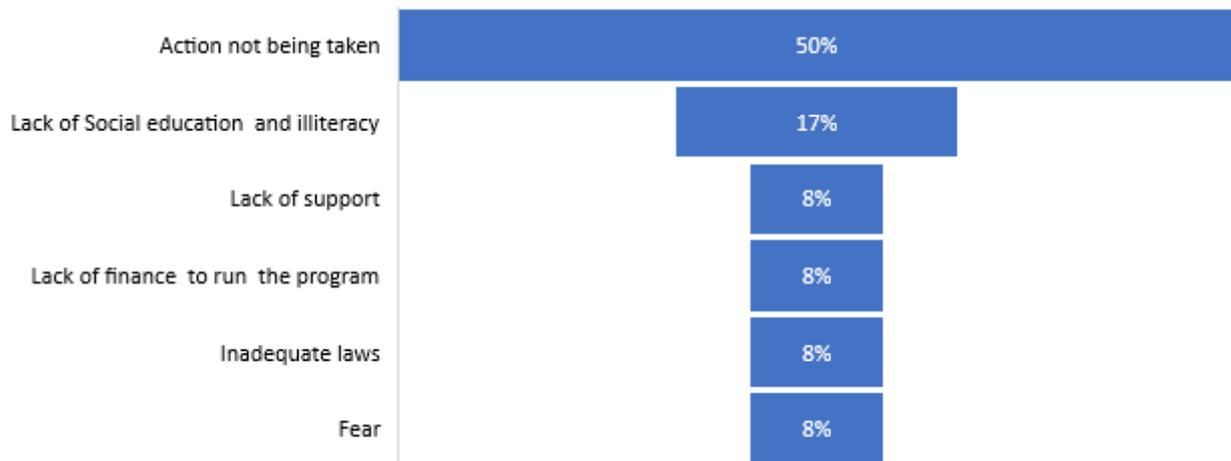

Figure 32: Main gaps in the systems in preventing instances of child trafficking

3.8.7. AWARENESS OF FORMAL PROCEDURE/PROTOCOL IN PLACE AT COMMUNITY LEVEL FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN VICTIMS OF UNSAFE MIGRATION & CHILD TRAFFICKING

A majority (96%) of the surveyed parents admitted that they were not aware of formal procedure/protocol in place at community level for the identification of children victims of unsafe migration & child trafficking in Moyale. On the flip side, 4% were aware, of these 44% rated their effectiveness as poor (38%) or very poor (6%), in identification of children victims of unsafe migration and child trafficking, equally 44% rated them as good (38%) or excellent (6%).
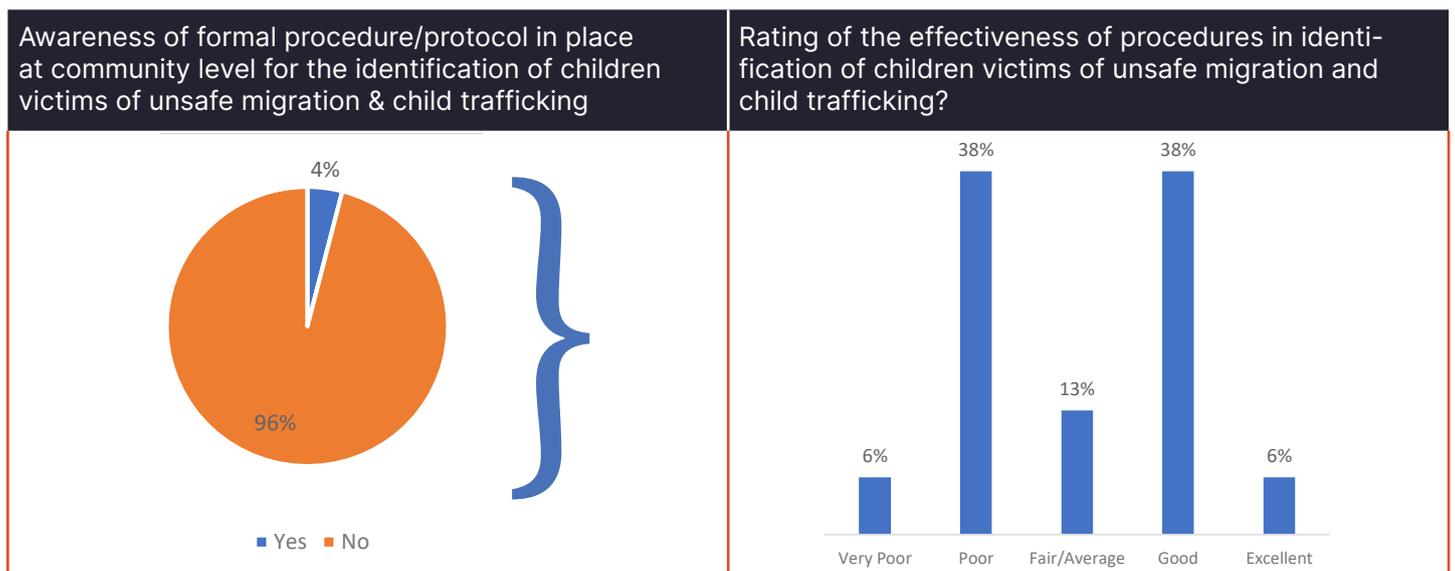

Figure 33: Awareness of formal procedure/protocol in place at community level for the identification of children victims of unsafe migration & child trafficking

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3.8.8. AWARENESS OF REFERRAL AND REDRESS MECHANISMS FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

A majority (94%) of the surveyed parents/caregivers admitted that they were not aware of referral and redress mechanisms for identified victims of child trafficking and unsafe migration in the area. Conversely, 6% were aware and of these 37% rated their adequacy as low (32%) or very poor (5%), in dealing with the child trafficking situation in this area. On the other hand, 55% rated them as highly adequate.

Awareness of response, referral and redress mechanisms for identified victims of child traffick-ing & unsafe migration	Rating of the adequacy of the response, referral and redress mechanisms in dealing with the child trafficking situation in this area
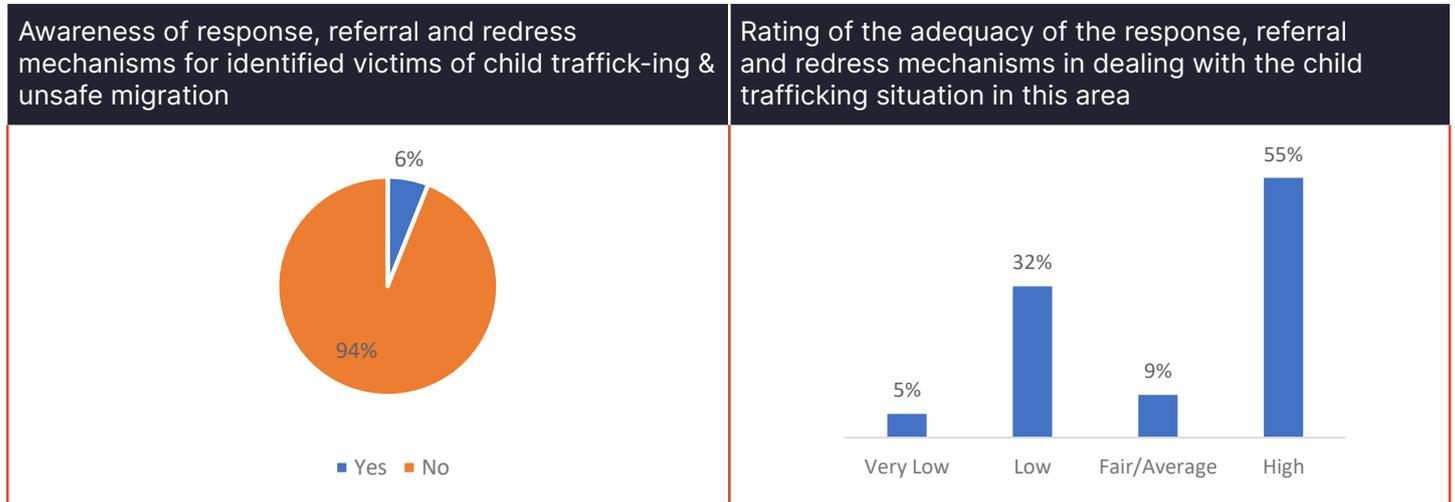
Figure 34: Response, referral and redress mechanisms for identified victims of child trafficking & unsafe migration

3.8.8.1. MAIN CHALLENGES/GAPS THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION.

The study established that the main challenges/gaps that hamper the fight against trafficking and unsafe migration mainly include lack of/inadequate community engagement (61%), inadequate technical capacity of duty bearers such as the police and child protection officers (59%), inadequate financial resources (53%) and poor coordination between the various government and non-governmental agencies involved in addressing child trafficking and unsafe migration issues (49%), other key mentions were legal & policy gaps (39%) and failure of the government agencies involved in addressing child protection method (5%), detailed findings are as presented below:
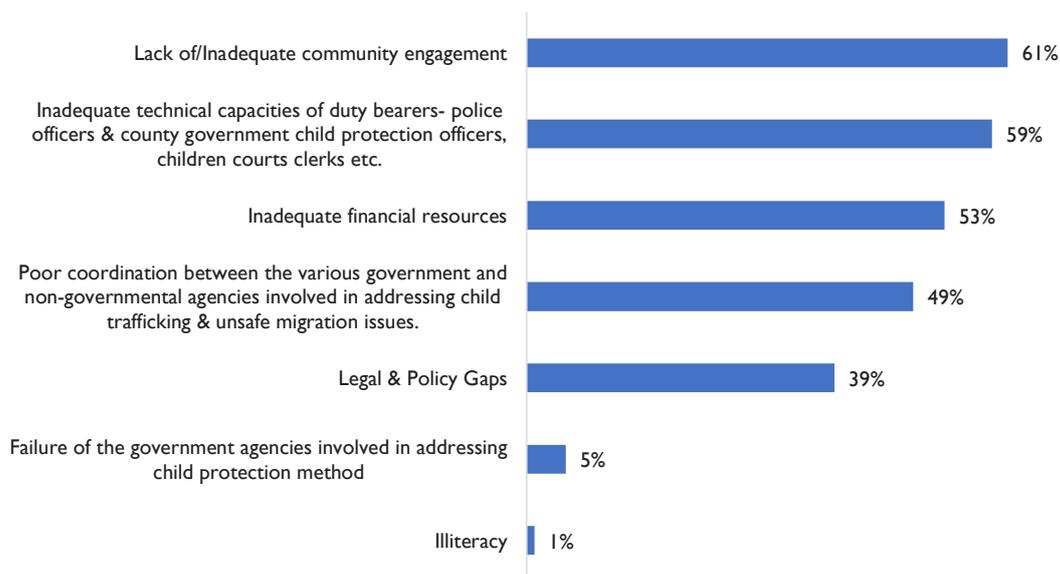

Figure 35: Main challenges and gaps that exist and stand in the way of the fight against child trafficking and unsafe migration

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3.8.9. SPECIFIC WAYS THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN BE ENGAGED IN CURBING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

Three in every five (60%) of the surveyed respondents highlighted that the community could be engaged and involved in curbing child trafficking and unsafe migration through awareness creation and advocacy.

Other mentions included capacity building/training (22%) and involvement in the design and development of policies and frameworks (18%)
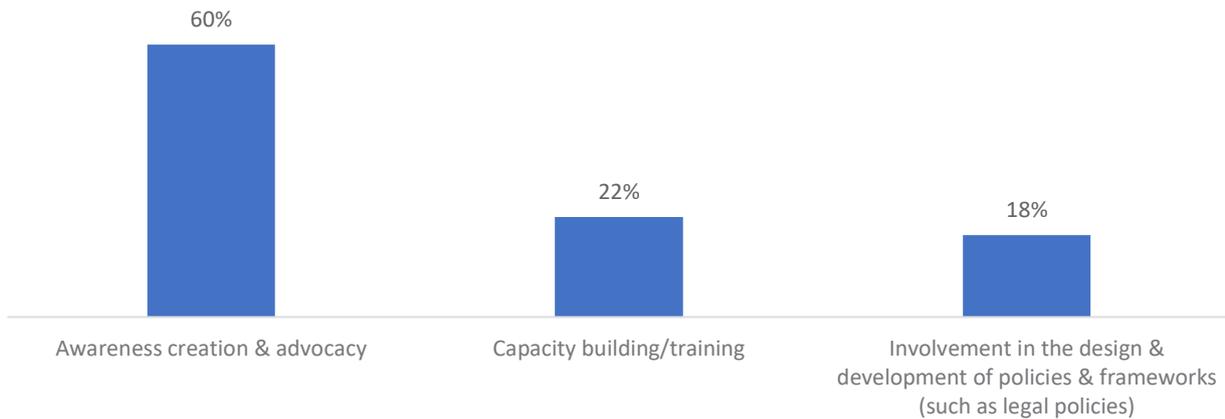

Figure 36: Engaging the Community in Curbing Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration

3.8.10. CHALLENGES/GAPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION

The survey established the main challenges and gaps in the fight against child trafficking and unsafe migration. The most prevalent challenge, mentioned by 61% of respondents, is the lack of or inadequate community engagement, indicating the importance of involving and mobilizing local communities in combating these issues. Additionally, 59% of respondents pointed to the inadequate technical capacities of duty bearers, including police officers, county government child protection officers, and children's court clerks, as a significant hindrance. The shortage of financial resources was cited by 53% of respondents, underscoring the need for increased funding to support anti-trafficking efforts. Poor coordination among the various government and non-governmental agencies involved in addressing these issues is another substantial challenge, mentioned by 49% of respondents. Legal and policy gaps were identified by 39% of respondents as an impediment, emphasizing the necessity for legal and regulatory improvements. A smaller percentage of respondents expressed concerns about the failure of government agencies involved in child protection methods, and a very small proportion pointed to illiteracy as a challenge. These findings collectively highlight the multifaceted nature of challenges faced in the fight against child trafficking and unsafe migration, from community engagement to technical capacity, financial resources, coordination, and legal frameworks.

Challenge	Percentage
Lack of/Inadequate community engagement	61%
Inadequate technical capacities of duty bearers- police officers & county government child protection officers,…	59%
Inadequate financial resources	53%
Poor coordination between the various government and non-governmental agencies involved in addressing child…	49%
Legal & Policy Gaps	39%
Failure of the government agencies involved in addressing child protection method	5%
Illiteracy	1%

Figure 37: Challenges and gaps that exist and stand in the way of the fight against child trafficking and unsafe migration in this area

To effectively eradicate the vice of trafficking, a multifaceted approach is necessary, with the top five priority measures being to raise awareness and educate vulnerable communities about trafficking's tactics and dangers, run media campaigns to inform the public about risks and reporting procedures, encourage collaboration among law enforcement, government, NGOs, and international organizations, create economic empowerment initiatives as alternatives to trafficking, and empower vulnerable groups through education, economic opportunities, and access to healthcare. These measures collectively tackle the problem from multiple angles, emphasizing the importance of prevention and support. By raising awareness and providing education, communities can become less susceptible to traffickers' tactics. Additionally, media campaigns help inform a wider audience, while collaboration ensures a coordinated effort against trafficking. Creating economic alternatives and providing education and healthcare opportunities not only protect individuals but also empower them to resist traffickers and build a more secure future, ultimately contributing to the eradication of this heinous vice.
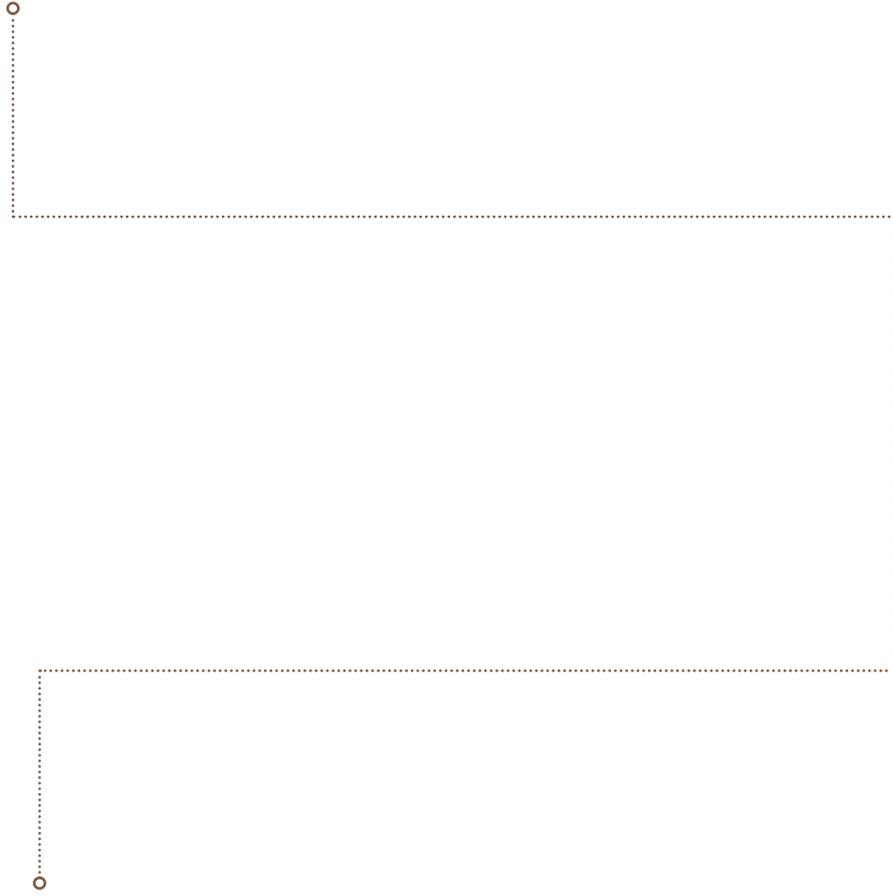
CONCLUSION

Awareness levels of child trafficking appear to be relatively high among the study's participants. Government and executive agency stakeholders unanimously acknowledged their awareness of child trafficking, while a majority of parents and children also indicated awareness, although there was a degree of confusion as respondents tended to conflate child trafficking with other related offenses. Further, the study unveiled strong emotional responses among individuals exposed to information or news related to child trafficking. Shock, sympathy, and anger were common reactions, underlining the profound impact that child trafficking has on individuals and communities. This underscores the urgent need for effective prevention, protection, and rehabilitation measures to combat this deeply troubling issue and eradicate it from society.

Identifying potential child trafficking victims is crucial, and the study identified key signs that include fear to speak, changes in behavior, and sudden disappearances. On the other hand, Perceptions of child safety within the region varied, with a majority of surveyed parents and caregivers considering their children safe from child trafficking and unsafe migration. However, a significant proportion expressed concerns, highlighting the need to address and mitigate the contributing factors to ensure the well-being and rights of children.

Responsibility for child trafficking was attributed to various factors and individuals, including parents/caregivers, lack of awareness and education, community members who fail to report concerns, traffickers and exploiters, and economic factors like poverty. The study also indicated a limited participation of parents and caregivers in community programs/initiatives aimed at preventing child trafficking, revealing the need for increased engagement and awareness in these programs. Furthermore, the lack of discussions within families about child trafficking and sexual exploitation is concerning, particularly given the potential gender disparity in raising awareness and educating children about these risks.

Geographical factors, especially the porous Kenya-Ethiopia border, played a significant role in the prevalence of child trafficking and unsafe migration through unofficial crossing points. The proximity of Moyale to the border made it a crucial transit point for traffickers, underlining its significance in the trafficking network. In addition, technology, specifically the internet, emerged as a tool that empowers traffickers by enabling them to reach and involve children in various services or networks. This highlights the need for greater vigilance in monitoring online activities and protecting children from online exploitation. Cultural factors were identified as contributing to child trafficking to some extent, with the lack of opportunities due to economic challenges being a primary driving force. This was particularly pronounced among the productive age group in the region.

The study also shed light on the characteristics of child trafficking victims, with females and those aged below 12 years being more vulnerable. Interestingly, children with single parents or orphaned were also at risk, regardless of the family setting. The diverse regional and ethnic backgrounds of child trafficking victims further emphasized the cross-border and multi-ethnic nature of this issue in the region, necessitating tailored prevention and intervention strategies.

Perpetrators of child trafficking were predominantly male, either Kenyan or Ethiopian, and aged between 25 to 45 years. They were often known to the victims, either as neighbours or unrelated individuals. The possibility of victims becoming traffickers is a disturbing aspect of the human trafficking phenomenon, driven by a complex interplay of factors. Economic vulnerability, legal pressure, fear of violence, limited knowledge about trafficking, and the influence of cultural and social norms all contribute to this distressing cycle.

Surveyed children and adults shared a common perception that child trafficking and unsafe migration primarily involved perpetrators who were strangers, businesses, criminals, and traffickers. The consistency of these findings underscores the importance of addressing these various potential threats to children in the region. To combat child trafficking effectively, it is essential to recognize and address the multifaceted nature of the problem. One of the most alarming findings is the prevalent pattern of recruitment attempts reported by children. A significant proportion of surveyed children mentioned being approached by individuals who promised them work or a better life.

Child trafficking victims are subjected to multiple forms of exploitation, with labor exploitation being the most prevalent, affecting a substantial percentage of vulnerable children. Organ trafficking, begging, slavery or servitude, forced marriage, and sexual exploitation also pose severe risks to their well-being. Additionally, forced military recruitment remains a concerning

practice, endangering children's lives by coercing them into participating in armed conflicts.

The study also revealed that some children and parents/caregivers lack the capacity to protect themselves and their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. Further, Perceptions regarding the capacity of local administrative leaders, such as chiefs, were diverse among surveyed parents/caregivers and children. While many expressed positive views on their capacity to protect children, a significant percentage held negative opinions. These differing perspectives suggest the need for continued evaluation and support to enhance the capabilities of local administrative leaders, ensuring effective measures to protect children from trafficking and unsafe migration.

The challenges and gaps in the fight against child trafficking and unsafe migration include inadequate community engagement, insufficient technical capacity of duty bearers, financial constraints, poor coordination among various agencies, and legal and policy gaps. Addressing these challenges is vital for the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts, as they represent obstacles that must be overcome to protect vulnerable children.

To effectively combat child trafficking, a multifaceted approach is necessary. The top priority measures identified include raising awareness and educating communities, running media campaigns, promoting collaboration among law enforcement, government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations, creating economic empowerment initiatives as alternatives to trafficking, and empowering vulnerable groups through education, economic opportunities, and access to healthcare. These measures collectively tackle the problem from multiple angles, emphasising the importance of prevention and support in eradicating this heinous issue.

Image source- SND 2023
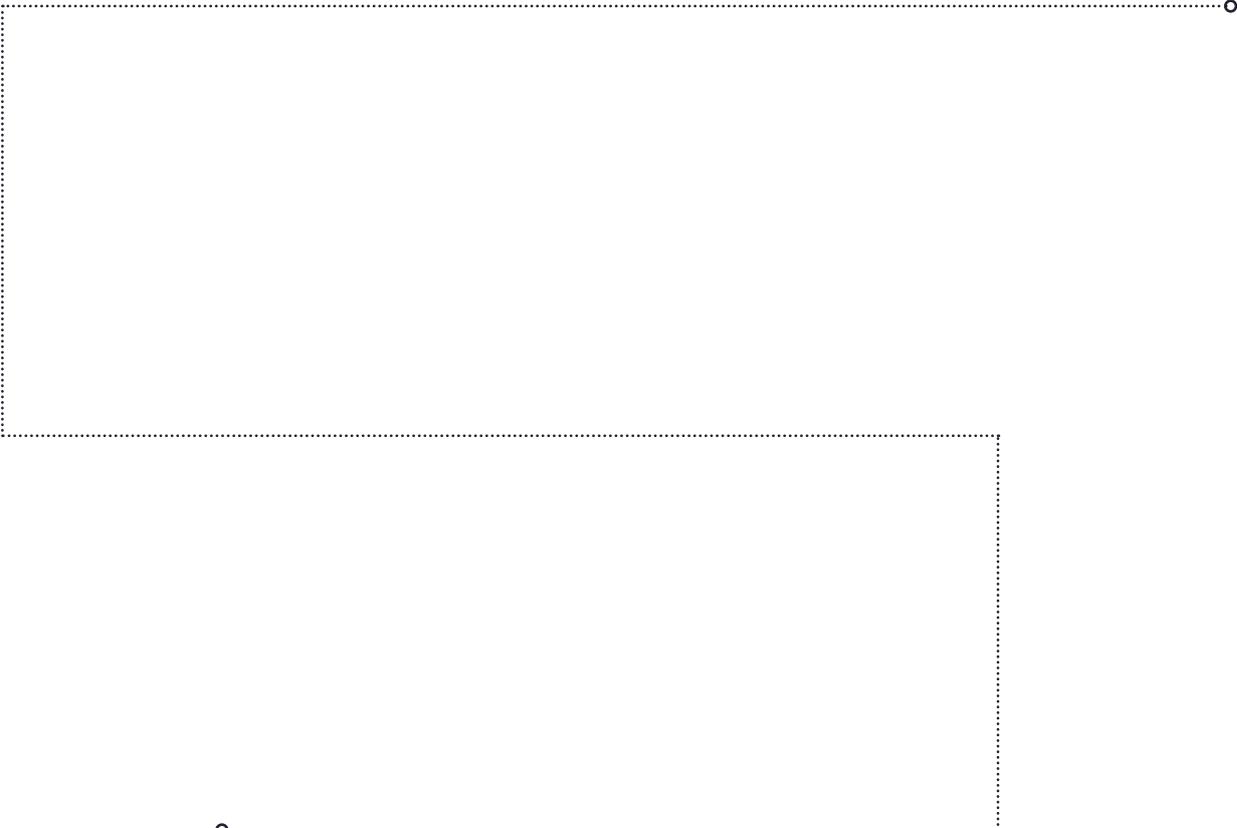
RECOMMENDATIONS

Programmatic Recommendations

1. In response to the identified lack of clarity and consistency in the community's understanding of child trafficking, it is crucial to design and implement targeted awareness programs. These programs should focus on **providing clear definitions of child trafficking, differentiating it from other related offenses.** The initiatives should involve collaborative efforts (Kenya and Ethiopia) between government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders. The awareness campaign should leverage diverse communication channels, including community workshops, educational sessions, and informative materials distributed through local media and social platforms. Special attention should be given to engaging parents, caregivers, and children, addressing their perceptions and associating child trafficking with illegal trade, exploitation, and forced labor. Emphasizing the real-life consequences and potential risks associated with child trafficking will contribute to a more accurate and consistent understanding within the community. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms should be integrated into the awareness campaign to ensure ongoing effectiveness and adaptability to the community's evolving comprehension of child trafficking.

2. Recognizing the need for communities to abolish norms that contribute to the vulnerability of children to Child Trafficking and Unsafe Migration (CTM), it is essential to initiate community-led awareness and advocacy programs. These programs should be designed collaboratively with community leaders, local organizations, and governmental bodies. **The goal is to engage community members in open dialogues about harmful norms that predispose children to CTM and foster an understanding of the associated risks.** Educational initiatives, workshops, and community forums can be employed to create a space for discussion, challenging outdated beliefs, and fostering a collective commitment to change harmful practices. Additionally, there is need for tailored campaigns to the cultural context of each community, ensuring that the messaging is relatable and resonant. This comprehensive approach will encourage communities to actively participate in dismantling detrimental norms, fostering a protective environment for children and preventing them from falling prey to the dangers of trafficking and unsafe migration.

3. There is need to engage communities and the chiefs more directly in advocacy and establishment of **response mechanisms.** More efforts are needed at the grassroots level and also involving children more directly since the government system may not be easily accessible (appears to be accessible to a limited proportion of the communities and potential target beneficiaries)

4. It is imperative to impart knowledge to the youth regarding the **grave implications of engaging in and assisting child traffickers. Further, awareness campaigns should focus on informing young people about the various forms of child trafficking.** By providing comprehensive information, the youth will be empowered to recognize the signs and consequences associated with these illegal activities.

5. Study findings highlight a range of self-perceived capacity levels among parents and caregivers, emphasizing the need for tailored support and educational initiatives to **empower those who may lack confidence in protecting their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration.** Hence, there is a need for tailored capacity assessments among parents and other stakeholders, such as their ability to handle trafficking cases or their knowledge of appropriate actions in specific trafficking situations. Approaches to strengthen this, could also include enhancing the activities of Child Rights Clubs

6. There is need to bring together different stakeholders at national, county, sub-county, and local levels to form a close-knit network and establish a strong and coordinated working relationship. Tackling challenges associated with child trafficking requires a united effort and the collaboration of various minds and ideas. It's a concerted effort that needs coordinated strategies.

7. The possibility of victims becoming traffickers is a disturbing aspect of the human trafficking phenomenon, driven by a complex interplay of factors. **To effectively combat this issue, a multifaceted approach is required, encompassing economic empowerment, legal protection, awareness, and cultural norm transformation.** By addressing these root causes, the cycle of human trafficking can be broken, essentially preventing victims from being forced into becoming perpetrators, ultimately working towards a world where individuals are no longer trapped in the vicious cycle of exploitation.

8. To address the issue of child trafficking effectively and build on best practices, it is recommended to utilize household methodologies as a strategic approach to increase awareness and prevent child trafficking within homes and communities. This method involves engaging all **household members** in understanding the factors contributing to child trafficking and their roles in preventing it.

9. In the context of working with children, it is crucial to integrate child participation as a central element. Specifically, child participation should be highlighted as a key strategy to address child trafficking. There is need to prioritize the voices and experiences of children, ensuring their perspectives shape future programming. Further, there is an urgent need for awareness campaigns and educational initiatives targeting children and their caregivers, given the concerning prevalence of recruitment attempts reported by the surveyed children. These campaigns should empower children with the knowledge and skills to identify and resist potential exploitation, fostering resilience against harmful solicitations. Child participation in the design and implementation of these programs is essential to ensure their relevance and effectiveness. Additionally, there is need for promotion of vigilance and intervention measures to safeguard vulnerable children from being lured into risky situations.

Government/Policy Recommendations

1. Technology, specifically the internet, emerged as a tool that empowers traffickers by enabling them to reach and involve children in various services or networks. This highlights the need for greater vigilance in monitoring online activities and protecting children from online exploitation.

2. There is need **to establish and enhance the current channels for reporting incidents linked to child trafficking and unsafe migration involving children, parents, and the broader community.** This includes a focus on ensuring that availability of an operational child help and gender desks within police stations, as well as the implementation of suggestion boxes in schools and hospitals. Additionally, adequate child protection officers should be in place. This comprehensive effort should also encompass the reinforcement of the child help line as an effective reporting mechanism.

3. Perceptions regarding the capacity of local administrative leaders, such as chiefs, were diverse among surveyed parents/caregivers and children. While many expressed positive views on their capacity to protect children, a significant percentage held negative opinions. These differing perspectives suggest the need for **continued evaluation and support to enhance the capabilities of local administrative leaders, ensuring effective measures to protect children from trafficking and unsafe migration.**

4. It is critical to establish well-equipped and easily accessible referral services for recognized victims of child trafficking and unsafe migration. This has been recognized as a significant deficiency in the effective addressing of child trafficking. This includes activities such as rehabilitating child victims and providing psychosocial support.

5. There is need to launch campaigns and awareness programs, primarily at the community level, to educate the public about t**he available pathways for seeking justice and following prosecution procedures in cases of child trafficking and unsafe migration.** The identified major gap of low case reporting necessitates these efforts to bridge the knowledge and action divide.

6. To address Kenya's human trafficking problem, which has both regional and international dimensions, there is a critical need for **enhanced anti-trafficking cooperation, particularly focusing on countries in the African and Middle East regions.** There is need for collaborative efforts involving information sharing, joint intelligence activities, and coordinated law enforcement strategies to disrupt trafficking networks. Training programs for border control and law enforcement agencies, along with diplomatic efforts to strengthen cooperation with destination countries, are essential components. The geographical expansion of child trafficking routes, involving individuals arriving in Moyale from Ethiopia and traveling further within Kenya and internationally, underscores the urgency for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to tackle the complexity of these trafficking networks. Proactive regional and international partnerships are crucial to effectively combat the transnational nature of child trafficking in the region.

7. Geographical factors, e**specially the porous Kenya-Ethiopia borde**r, played a significant role in the prevalence of child trafficking and unsafe migration through unofficial crossing points. There is thus a need for strengthened border control measures and regional cooperation between Kenya and Ethiopia governments, to tackle this issue effectively.

8. Enhance the extent of collaboration between the Counter Trafficking Advisory Committee and various stakeholders within the child protection sector, both at the national and county levels. Develop **program initiatives aimed at countering child trafficking while simultaneously elevating the rate of reporting and prosecution of such cases.** This could involve the establishment of user-friendly reporting systems designed to incentivize community members, children, and parents to report instances of child trafficking.

9. The **lack of rescue centres poses a significant challenge in providing timely and appropriate assistance to children** who have experienced trafficking. To address this critical gap, it is critical for the government to partner with NGOs in establishing well-equipped rescue centres specifically designed to cater to the unique needs of child trafficking survivors.

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION (BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA) TO TRANSFORM SOCIAL NORMS AND STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN MARSABIT, NORTHERN KENYA

terre des hommes
Help for Children in Need

10. Addressing the connection between "**house help recruitment agencies/bureaus" and the potential exploitation of children through employment is an urgent and critical matter.** Recognizing the risk of child trafficking, immediate attention and proactive measures are essential. It is advisable for regulatory bodies and law enforcement agencies to work in collaboration, with an aim of establishing and enforcing strict regulations specifically tailored to the house help recruitment sector. This collaborative effort is vital for mitigating the potential exploitation of children within the employment context and ensuring the sector operates ethically and within legal bounds.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

1. Child trafficking victims are subjected to multiple forms of exploitation, with labor exploitation being the most prevalent, affecting a substantial percentage of vulnerable children. Organ trafficking, begging, slavery or servitude, forced marriage, and sexual exploitation also pose severe risks to their well-being. Additionally, forced military recruitment remains a concerning practice, endangering children's lives by coercing them into participating in armed conflicts. As such there is need for **empowerment programs that facilitate the protection of children from the various forms of exploitation.**

2. The study also revealed that some children and parents/caregivers lack the capacity to protect themselves and their children against child trafficking and unsafe migration. This **highlights the need for targeted support, awareness campaigns, and educational programs to empower children and their caregivers with the knowledge and skills to identify and resist potentially harmful solicitations** and complexities of migration, especially in the context of unsafe or forced migration.

3. The study also highlighted the challenges and gaps in the fight against child trafficking and unsafe migration, including inadequate community engagement, insufficient technical capacity of duty bearers, financial constraints, poor coordination among various agencies, and legal and policy gaps. Addressing these challenges is vital for the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts, as they represent obstacles that must be overcome to protect vulnerable children.

4. CSOs play a crucial role in complementing government efforts in capacity development. CSOs should focus on community-level awareness campaigns to educate parents/caregivers about the risks of child trafficking and unsafe migration. Additionally, CSOs can **collaborate with government agencies to design and implement targeted capacity-building programs for county administrative leaders.** They should leverage their advocacy platforms to highlight the importance of investing in the capacity development of county leaders as a strategic approach to child protection. Furthermore, there is need to facilitate community dialogues to gather input on the specific needs and concerns of citizens, ensuring that capacity development initiatives align with the expectations and realities of the community.

5. There is need to prioritize the implementation of **community educational workshops aimed at enhancing awareness among parents and caregivers about child trafficking and unsafe migration.** These workshops will be designed to equip participants with crucial knowledge to recognize, prevent, and respond effectively to these threats. Additionally, it will be imperative to emphasize training for parents, empowering them to advocate for child protection policies and rights at local and national levels. This comprehensive approach will ensure that the community is not only well-informed but also actively engaged in advocating for the well-being and protection of children in the context of trafficking and migration risks.

6. It is imperative for civil society organizations to actively assess and, when needed, enhance their child protection programs by incorporating the latest evidence on child trafficking and unsafe migration. This includes staying abreast of emerging trends, understanding evolving risks, and adapting strategies accordingly. Concurrently, CSOs should prioritize collaboration by engaging in joint advocacy efforts aimed at preventing and mitigating child trafficking and unsafe migration. By fostering partnerships and aligning advocacy initiatives, civil society organizations can amplify their impact and influence relevant policies and interventions. This collaborative approach will ensure a more unified and effective front in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by child trafficking and unsafe migration. Furthermore, CSOs should

leverage their collective voice to engage with policymakers, governments, and international bodies, advocating for the implementation of robust measures that safeguard children from trafficking and unsafe migration. This dual focus on program refinement and collaborative advocacy will contribute significantly to the overall success of child protection efforts

Parents and Teachers:

1. Parents and Teachers need to **actively participate in educational workshops, training programs, and awareness campaigns.** Foster an environment that challenges harmful norms and protects children from trafficking and unsafe migration. Parents and teachers should take a leading role in initiating discussions within the family setting and sensitising children about what to be vigilant about.

Children:

1. There is a need for children to actively engage and participate **in educational initiatives and awareness campaigns.** Be **vigilant** against recruitment attempts and contribute to the design and implementation of programs that protect them from potential exploitation.

Areas for Additional Research

1. Further research is strongly recommended to enhance understanding of child trafficking and unsafe migration based on findings. The research should delve into:

- The effectiveness of existing awareness campaigns, evaluating their impact on community perceptions and behaviours.

- Understanding the reasons behind the limited participation of parents and caregivers in community programs as it is crucial for fostering active engagement.

- A focused exploration of the role of the internet in facilitating trafficking, geographical factors in borderland dynamics, and the experiences of victims

- Investigate the prevalent pattern of recruitment attempts and understanding the promises made by recruiters as they will provide insights for preventive measures.

- A more granular supplementary exploration of various forms of exploitation faced by victims, along with assessing the capacity and perceptions of local administrative leaders.

- Challenges and gaps in the fight against child trafficking, for developing context-specific solutions, addressing inadequate community engagement, technical capacity gaps, financial constraints, poor coordination, and legal and policy gaps. This comprehensive approach will inform multifaceted strategies to combat child trafficking and unsafe migration effectively.

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FINAL RESEARCH REPORT

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