



STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS SUMMARY MWANZA 2015



METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

The survey involved 70 children (62 boys aged 7-15 and 8 girls aged 15-20) and 49 stakeholders of various kinds (taxi drivers, security guards, food vendors, business owners, police etc). The survey included boys from the areas of Mironko (16), Kirumba (15), Nyegezi stand (9) and Buzuruga stand (10), all of which are target areas for our work, whereas the 8 girls were reached separately and originated from a mix of areas.

The study is limited by an imbalance in the representation of boys and girls. Greater inclusion of girls would have called for a different methodology as girls generally live in ghettos and guesthouses and are often involved in sex work at night, away from the streets where boys openly live.

A variety of research methods were used throughout the Stakeholder Analysis, and it was carried out in three distinct stages:

1. Researchers completed a mapping exercise with children, where they identified places and people that they frequently come into contact with on the streets.
2. The children filled in a questionnaire to document their experiences of risk, abuse and support in their interactions with specific stakeholder groups on the streets.
3. Researchers documented the stakeholders' perspectives on the children, through questionnaires and focus group discussions.

INTRODUCTION

In 2014/15, Railway Children conducted a stakeholder analysis survey in Mwanza, Tanzania, with the aim of understanding the nature of the relationships that children in the streets forge with different people connected to the town/street environment.

The objectives of the Stakeholder Analysis were three-fold:

1. Develop a baseline understanding of the children's experiences on the streets with the aim of measuring risk, harassment, and support.
2. Develop a baseline understanding of stakeholders' attitudes and awareness towards children in the streets.
3. Help inform the development of strategies to create safer streets for children and quicker referral networks for new arrivals.

The survey was completed by Railway Children Africa, in partnership with Kivuko (RCA's own project), and Caretakers of the Environment Tanzania (Coet). We are grateful to all of those who participated for their involvement with the data collection, and crucially for the relationships that they have with the children and stakeholders.



KEY FINDINGS

Children were asked if they had experienced different forms of abuse on the streets. This included feeling scared/threatened and witnessing violent acts.

How commonly do children experience abuse?

- 100% of children had experienced verbal abuse while on the streets.
- 97% had experienced physical abuse.
- 23% of the boys, and all of the girls, had experienced sexual abuse on the streets.
- The levels of abuse and harassment experienced were largely the same in the different areas surveyed.

Who is behind the abuse?

- Other children and youths were by far the most common source of abuse. 64% of children had been verbally abused by youths on the street; 59% had witnessed physical abuse by youths on the streets; and 43% of children had been afraid a youth would abuse them. Youth were also the most common perpetrators of sexual abuse.
- It was as common for children to experience abuse from other children and youth on the streets as it was from other stakeholders around them.
- Out of all the different stakeholders who do not live on the streets (i.e. everyone but youth/child peers), children experienced the police as the most common source of these negative experiences. Witnessing violence and feeling threatened accounted for just under half of these incidences.

Children were asked what type of support they had received while on the streets, if any, and who was behind this support. Questionnaires defined support as social, emotional or welfare-based.

How commonly do children experience support?

- The most frequently experienced form of support was having someone to talk to on the streets. This was experienced by 80%.
- The least common form of support was having someone who protects you or stands up for you. 54% of children had never experienced this.
- 61% had had someone who cares for them.
- 75% had at some point been connected to a service (most often health care) and 74% had received food from people around them.
- Geographically, children in Buzuruga bus stand had by far the least experience of being supported.



Who supports them?

- At the same time as being the most common abusers, other children and youth were, as a single group, also the most common source of support the children experienced.
- Street-connected stakeholders such as business owners, vendors and transport workers were the second most common source of support to children.
- Project outreach workers came in third place.

Stakeholders' perceptions and awareness of children on the streets:

Stakeholders participating in the survey all work or spend time in the same locations that children can be found.

The individual stakeholders that children drew their experiences from in the survey are not necessarily the same as those who were interviewed in the field work.

- Stakeholders showed a great deal of awareness about where the children came from and why they were on the streets. For example, 73% claimed children were from impoverished families and 55% stated they had been driven to the streets because of broken families.
- Stakeholders described the profile of street-connected children as typically boys, under 15 years of age and badly behaved.
- Stakeholders recognize that children survive on the streets through informal work and risky lifestyles.
- 84% of the stakeholders had supported a child on the streets at some point.



CONCLUSIONS

1. Children experience significant levels of risk and abuse

Every child surveyed had experienced some form of abuse while on the streets, and the levels of physical and sexual abuse experienced by children in the survey were very high. It is much more common for the children to experience abuse than it is to experience support from various stakeholders.

2. Other children and youth are the most influential group

Findings highlight that other young people living on the streets are the single most common abusers and, at the same time, they are the most common source of support. It was as common for children to experience support or abuse from other children and youth as it was from all the other stakeholder groups added together.

3. Stakeholders provide a range of different experiences

Children have a range of both positive and negative experiences in relation to the people who work and spend time around them.

4. Stakeholders are potential supporters

Even though stakeholders themselves perceive the children as badly behaved, they are well aware of their circumstances and willing to help. More than 8 out of 10 stakeholders surveyed have at some point supported a child out of their own initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is scope to improve the level of support and protection that children experience on the streets. Project workers and local authorities alone cannot perform enough outreach to identify all children early on. People living and working in the very areas where children survive on the streets are aware of the situation of these children and are willing to help. Therefore coordinated efforts should be made to allow people to volunteer to protect these children and refer them to services in collaboration with local authorities.

- The mixture of private individuals working on and around the streets where children survive could be mobilized to further keep children safe and establish friendships with them while they are on the streets, and where possible, refer them to local authorities and/or services.
- Youth on the streets need to understand the effects of abuse on younger children and get more support to develop appropriate non-violent behaviour when interacting with younger peers.
- Local authorities, including police, should implement child protection systems at street level. They should work proactively to identify and refer children early - when they first arrive on the streets. Bus stand leaders, street leaders and other local authority and community figures could be responsible for protecting children in their respective areas, forging links with various stakeholders who can help them to keep children safe.



Railway Children Africa
P.O. Box 138, Mwanza, Tanzania

T TZ +255 (0)783 884 759
T KY +254 (0)705 783 277
E info@railwaychildren.org.uk
W www.railwaychildren.org.uk

Certificate of Incorporation: 77698

children RAILWAY
Fighting for street children