Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) Input: UN Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences.

Terre des Hommes is a children's rights umbrella organisation under the International Federation of Terre des Hommes (TDHIF), with independent organisations in the Netherlands, Italy, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, and Luxembourg. Terre des Hommes Netherlands envisions children flourishing in a world of all forms of exploitation. This means protecting children by preventing and stopping child exploitation; and by empowering children to make their voices count.

Our submission is structured to respond/provide information as requested by the UN special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery for the report to the UN Human Rights Council on the 54th Session. It consolidates information largely from Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia (minimal), some of the countries in Eastern Africa where Terre des Hommes Netherlands works to Stop Child Exploitation. Additionally, insights from our forthcoming internal research on practices to stop and respond to child exploitation will be shared where we spoke to TdH NL staff, partners, community members and children in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Uganda.

Main causes/drivers of homelessness

In the three focus countries (Ethiopia - E, Kenya - K, Tanzania - T), similar drivers of homelessness are discovered by our country staff:

1. **Economic drivers:** poverty in combination with increased cost of living, unemployment and limited business opportunities or access to financial services and lack of affordable housing (E, K, T).
2. **Geopolitical drivers:** conflicts (e.g. political, ethnic) that are causing displacement, forced evictions (E, K, T), inadequate political efforts to allocate resources for social protection programmes targeting vulnerable groups (K), natural hazards and people migrating towards the city without having the means (T).
3. **Sociocultural drivers:** social norms and practices causing children to run away (E, K, T), particularly discrimination and inequality based on culture, customary law and informal justice. Especially children, people with disabilities and women and girls are disadvantaged. Girls are less often pursuing education and have more difficulties getting education, training and a job (T). Disinheritance of children by extended family members in some families and communities (K), alcoholism and drug addiction (E), migrating parents looking for livelihood and leaving their children behind (T).

In our internal research, partners and children identified that child abuse or an unstable living situation was a driver for children to run away from home and live on the streets (Uganda). Children also mentioned that peers would come to their town and show how great the city life is on their phone. This encouraged children to go to big cities, where they sometimes ended up on the streets and exploited (Uganda).

The link between homelessness and exploitation

In the East African context, homelessness is largely linked linked to migration, for example in Ethiopia, 60% of the homeless population was born in rural areas and relocated to the city[1]. Homeless and street connected children often cite experiences of abuse, exploitation while living on the streets. The same study by UNICEF in Ethiopia also shows that homeless populations lack access to services thus making them more vulnerable than other populations. Substance abuse while on the streets for most children is common practice, increasing chances of violence, unprotected sex among others[2]. An unpublished study by Terre des Hommes with children in 4 countries (2 in East Africa and 2 in Asia) established that lack of parental care ranks highly among factors that predispose children to exploitation. In one project implemented by Terre des Hommes and a local partner addressing sexual exploitation of children in Lodwar town of Turkana County, Kenya, over 80% of the victims rescued were children living on the streets.

Profiles of homeless victims

In focus countries, the following characteristics of homeless victims that are exploited are found.

	Kenya	*Tanzania*	*Ethiopia*
Age	Over 50% of homeless people are children	No information	Adolescent girls
Gender	No information	⅔ girls	Girls
Living area	No information	Rural areas and then relocated to urban areas in search of job opportunities	Rural areas and then relocated to urban areas in search of job opportunities
Economic situation	Low income earners / poverty	Poverty	Poverty
Educational situation	Low educational attainment	Often only primary education	No information
Experience with violence	Experience of family and domestic violence	No information	Domestic violence
Health	Ill health (including mental health issues), disability, substance misuse	No information	No information

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[1] UNICEF: Situation and Access to Services of Homeless Children and Adults in Addis Ababa, (n.d)

[2] Endris & Sitota, Causes and Consequences of Streetism among Street Children in Harar City, Ethiopia (2019).

Migratory status	No information	No Information	Migrants (usually 1.5 years after migrating)

In our internal research, it was found that in Uganda children with disabilities that lived on the streets were exploited for economic gain. In Kenya, most of the children and persons with disabilities begging on the streets are trafficked from Tanzania; majority are boys.

Profiles of exploiters

	Kenya	*Tanzania*
Familiarity to the victim	Family members or other people familiar to the victim	Parents, other relatives, neighbours, family friend
Organisations	Cartels of high profile individuals	No information
Professions	Diplomats, business owners, labour brokers, farm, factory and company workers / owners	Teacher, government worker
False pretences	Purported well wishers and illegal recruitment agencies	No information

Methods of recruiting

Kenya	*Tanzania*	*Ethiopia*
False promises about employment or education, targeting vulnerable populations, building trust to later control their victims, using force and coercion (abuse, threats against family and friends, psychological intimidation)	Most often, it is the promise of a job. Also some cases of promises of education or a luxurious life.	Reports indicate that many homeless adolescent girls were initially engaged in domestic work but left after experiencing abuse by their employer.

Manifestation of exploitation

Kenya	Tanzania	Ethiopia
Sexual exploitation (including sexual exploitation in travel and tourism) girls and young women mainly in the coastal region but also in major towns (county headquarters) Labour exploitation - including forced begging (especially boys)	Sexual exploitation, begging, Labour exploitation - domestic labour	Sexual exploitation - mostly girls from age 12 Labour exploitation - domestic labour in cities - mostly girls (adolescents)

Homelessness as a consequence of modern slavery

No evidence was found of victims that were made homeless after exploitation. However, as we focus on child trafficking, children were rescued from the streets or exploitation and moved to a shelter or facility. There, they are provided with (mental) health care, food and other types of support towards rehabilitation and reintegration.[3] As a principle, TdH NL uses gatekeeping mechanisms to ensure that family or community care is prioritised over residential care. In our internal research, it was found that even though there were challenges with residential care (such as lack of options, safety), institutionalisation was treated as the default practice. Many children that were rescued from the streets or exploitation end up in institutions. However, we also have many examples where families were traced and children were reunited with their families (Uganda) or where foster care was actively encouraged (the Philippines).

Positive measures by the Government

Kenya	Tanzania
Robust legal and policy framework including the Constitution of 2010, ratification of UN HR instruments - UNCRC, ILO conventions (138, 182, 189 etc). Social protection programmes including cash transfer to vulnerable groups (albeit limited).	Strengthened legal and policy framework addressing trafficking (Anti-trafficking National Plan of Action 2021 - 2024) Establishment of guidelines for trafficking and GBV victims support. National capacity building initiative for different public service officers tackling child protection, law enforcement etc.

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[3] https://globalmarch.org/homeless-children-child-labour-and-the-onslaught-of-covid-19/

	Establishment of economic programmes aimed at developing small scale industries and businesses.

Positive measures by civil society organisations or non-governmental stakeholders

Kenya	*Tanzania*
Livelihood support programmes / economic empowerment for vulnerable families Interceptions of children travelling alone Sensitization and awareness creation on HT, SEC, Labour exploitation, OCSE Shelter for homeless, providing them with food and non-food items Providing humanitarian assistance, including food, education, health	Facilitation and participation in coordination meetings for functional referral pathways for child protection (TdH NL) Input into guidelines for establishment and management of shelters / homes for victims of trafficking Lobby & advocacy for the enactment of the Witness Protection Act & Protection Unit Advocacy for adequate funds to facilitate the investigation of TiP cases Government and private sector engagement to develop a code of conduct for employers with child domestic workers who may end up in the streets Run shelters with temporary accommodation for homeless children and reintegration Creating awareness among communities, schools and government on CT and unsafe migration Educational support for the most vulnerable and victims of homelessness Family counselling on child protection and families' livelihoods support for poor families whose children are at risk of being homeless or trafficked

Remaining challenges

Kenya	Tanzania
Poverty remains to be a structural challenge that stalls efforts to end child labour and the number of children between 5 -11 years has increased.	Difficulty in the interpretation and application of the Anti-trafficking law - no access to justice for victims. Limited resources for supporting rescue and reintegration of homeless persons including children. Poorly resourced government units. Limited awareness of the consequences of trafficking, unsafe migration for victims. Limited awareness on the importance of birth registration and the associated risks to children and families. Unprecedented growth of cartels gaining from streetism and forced begging. Structural challenges preventing access to services for trafficked, homeless and abused populations; including barriers in the justice system such as availability of forms to report cases (Police Form no.3). Limited number of safehouses for victims - only 3 shelters in the whole country.

Practical recommendations

Kenya	Tanzania
Adequate social protection for all vulnerable groups	Complete the review of the Anti Trafficking in Persons Act no.6 (2008), streamline this with international law

Increased spending on quality education and getting all children back into school; Promotion of decent work for adults, so families don't have to resort to child labour or migrating to the Gulf for greener pastures; An end to harmful gender norms and discrimination; Enforcement of existing laws and policies against child labour, child trafficking, combating sexual exploitation of children (online and offline). Investment in child protection systems including local CP structures and capacity Strengthen collaboration between all relevant actors: Government, civil society organisations, private sector, community, media and Law enforcement agencies in coordinated collaborative work in ending modern forms of slavery	Enact a Domestic Violence Law Increased awareness about trafficking and children's rights in communities, government officials, teachers, law enforcers Implement policies and programmes to address gender equality, re-admission of girls to school after giving birth, child labour Capacity building of law enforcement agencies and government against FGM and anti-trafficking and more resources to tackle it For victims, provide psychosocial support, shelter, vocational support, economic self-sufficiency, functional one-stop government services centres, shelters, basic education Structured mapping of most vulnerable children and economic support for poor families Promote birth registration and certification, and access to registration services Implement effective sanctions Encourage children's participation in the children's development agenda, including in their homes, schools and the communities