

CHILDREN RIGHTS REPORT - RACOB AO



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CAO:	Chief Administrative Officer
CDOs:	Community Development Officer
CPRCE:	Centre for Policy Research and Capacity Enhancement
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
DEO:	District Education Officer
DHO:	District Health Officer
DLG:	District Local Government
FGD:	Focus Group Discussion
NGO:	None Governmental Organization
NPHC:	National Population and Housing Census
KI:	Key Informant
LC:	Local Council
MDAs:	Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government
OVC:	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
RACOBABO:	Rural Action Community Based Organization

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Basing on two major factors namely: the plight of children in Bukomansimbi district and their work experience in children rights advocacy, RACOBABO a local NGO in Rakai with support from Kindernothilfe is desirous of extending its support to address Children rights abuses in Bukomansimbi. To inform its programming, RACOBABO contracted the services of Centre for Policy Research and Capacity Enhancement [CPRCE] to investigate the magnitude of children rights abuses in Bukomansimbi district exploring deeply into the root causes of the rampant child rights abuses in Butenga and Kibinge sub-counties. With the results from this baseline study, RACOBABO intends to develop a multi-year program that will respond to children rights abuses identified by the study based on the specific recommendations generated.

The study covered two sub-counties of Bukomansimbi district namely: Butenga and Kibinge. A descriptive design was adopted in accomplishing the assignment with the aim of generating descriptive data on the phenomenon investigated and to allow for capturing of the voices of respondents to add value to statistical data. A sample size of 400 respondents was reached composed of children, parents/care givers, district leadership, RACOBABO staff, CSO officials and local community in general. The main methods deployed for data collection and analysis were: review of secondary data, Key Informant Interviews, Observation, FGDs, Survey/use of questionnaires and consultative meetings.

The key findings resulting from the baseline survey indicate that child rights violations in Bukomansimbi district are relatively high [62%] meaning that six [6] out of every ten [10] children experience some form of violation of rights. Child neglect and mistreatment by step parents/caregivers in terms of denying children food, subjecting children to all forms of labor, battering, not taking children to school, failure to treat a step child when sick] top the list of forms of child rights violations in Butenga and Kibinge sub-counties of Bukomansimbi District. The study also reveals that, children's own parents [33.3%] and step parents [32.6%] are the main perpetrators of child abuse accounting for 65.9% of cases of violation of children rights. Children in the age bracket 11 – 15 were the most vulnerable to abuse for the reason that they are *aggressive and uncontrollable. They can work in the gardens and offer labor in all forms. They can take care of other young ones and yet can also be sexually manipulated. They are denied play as they are introduced to taking on family/household's roles.* Poverty, broken families and alcoholism stood as the main drivers of violation of children's rights accounting for 64% of responses on factors for violation of children's rights. Poverty undermines parent's ability to provide basic needs for the family. Children reached by the study, revealed that parents and the Police [63%] are their main reporting lines in the event that their rights are violated. Despite its importance in resolving family matters the role of Probation office remains unpopular. The toll-free child helpline "Sauti 116" installed at the district by DREAMS and Ministry of Gender was dysfunctional because of the district's inability to pay for internet and airtime subscriptions. Children reached by this study acknowledged that their reporting lines were effective and that approximately, 76% of their concerns were addressed/fix/resolved through such reporting lines.

The study recommends mobilization of communities for change. That is, to educate the community (men, women, boys and girls) on children's rights, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and mobilizing them to keep children free and safe from violence. We also recommend RACOBABO to support adolescent sexual and reproductive health education both for in and out of school to address gender and power relations that are associated with improved behavioral outcomes, including lowering the rate of HIV infection. Others include: joint advocacy with other actors to promote children's rights, economic empowerment of households and strengthening child protection systems.

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE BASELINE STUDY:

RACOBABO, a local NGO in Rakai with support from Kindernothilfe is extending its support to address Children's rights abuses in Bukomansimbi. This desire is informed by three [3] main factors namely; high HIV prevalence, rising number of orphans and vulnerable children [OVC] and high levels of poverty in the district. According to the Bukomansimbi District Health Office Report, 2017 HIV prevalence stands at 8% of which about 8.6% children born are exposed to HIV. About 24.3% of the population of Bukomansimbi District lives below poverty line with about 17.7% of households consuming less than 2 meals a day. The two scenarios namely; high HIV prevalence and high levels of poverty have resulted into growing number of OVC in the district resulting into high levels of child abuse. As a result, RACOBABO, contracted Centre for Policy Research and Capacity Enhancement [CPRCE] to investigate the magnitude of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi district exploring deeply into the root causes of the rampant child rights abuses in Butenga and Kibinge sub-counties. With the results from this baseline study, RACOBABO intends to develop a multi-year program that will respond to child rights abuses identified by the study based on the specific recommendations generated.

1.2 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The overall objective of the baseline study was to understand the magnitude of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi district with deep insight into the root causes of the rampant child rights abuses in the two [2] sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge.

1.2.1 Specific Objectives of the Baseline Study:

The baseline study particularly sought to:

- (a) Establish the prevalence of common child rights abuses in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge in Bukomansimbi District.
- (b) Study and document factors responsible for Child abuse in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge in Bukomansimbi District.
- (c) Assess the current mechanisms used by communities to prevent and protect children and establish their level of accessibility to children.
- (d) Make relevant and sustainable recommendations relative to the identified child rights abuses.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE BASELINE STUDY:

1.3.1 Content Scope:

Content scope of the baseline study was divided into three [3] major parts namely: the prevalence of child rights violations in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge, Bukomansimbi District; factors responsible for child rights abuse and the existing mechanisms at community level for prevention and protection of children and their level of accessibility to children. We then propose relevant and sustainable recommendations for addressing child rights abuses in Butenga and Kibinge – Bukomansimbi district.

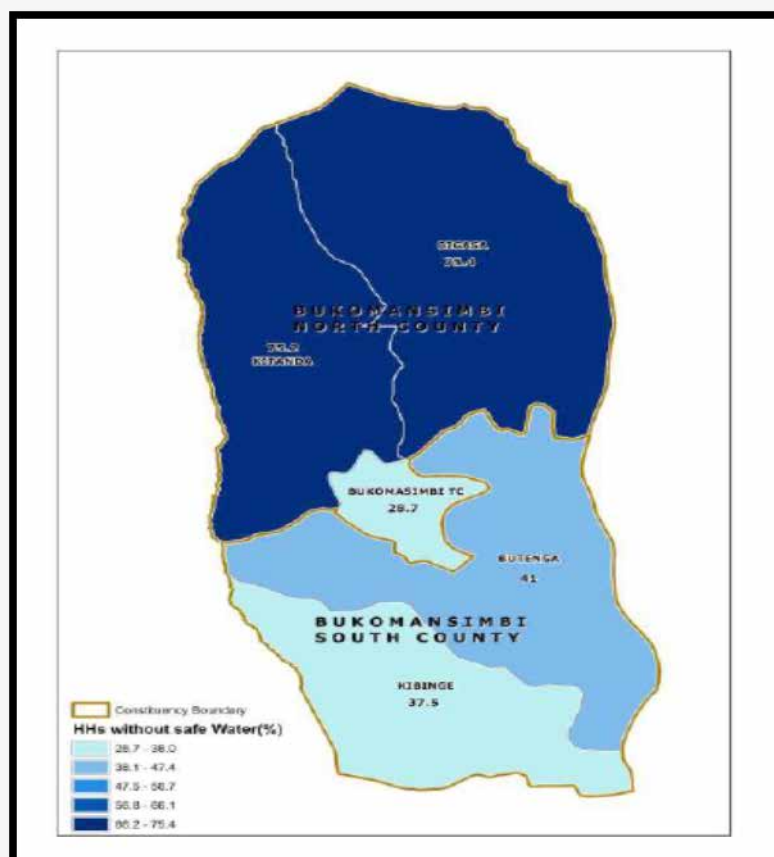
1.3.2 Geographical Scope:

The baseline study was conducted in Bukomansimbi District covering two (2) sub-counties of Kibinge and Butenga.

Table 1.1: Areas of Bukomasimbi District Covered by the Study:

Sub-counties	Parishes
Kibinge	Butayunja; Kiryassaaka; Kisojjo; Maleku and Mirambi
Butenga	Kabigi; Kassebwera; Kawoko; Kisagazi; Kisiita and Kyankoole

Source: Field Data



Map 1.1: Sub-counties that constitute Bukomansimbi District:

Source: UBOS

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION:

This section of the report presents methods used during data collection and analysis. It covers study design, sample size determination, categories of respondents, sampling of respondents, methods of data collection, quality control, data management and analysis and ethical considerations.

2.2 STUDY DESIGN:

A descriptive study design was adopted for this baseline study. Descriptive design was adopted with the aim of generating descriptive data on the phenomenon investigated. Descriptive data was considered important in that it provides detailed and accurate interpretation of the phenomenon and allows for capturing of the voices of the respondents and to add value to statistical data.

2.3 SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION:

To arrive at the sample size for this base line study, the consultants used the total population size for the two sub-counties of Butenga and Kibinge [71,252] as per (District Community Development Office report, 2019). Thus, Yamane (1967:886) formula for sample size determination will be

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

and the formula is:

Where: N = target population
n = required sample size.
e = Margin of error [5%].

$$n = \frac{71,252}{1 + 71,252(0.05)^2}$$

n = 397.76. Thus, n = 398 respondents.

Table 2.1: Categories of Respondents who participated in the Baseline Study

	Categories of Respondents/participants	Total
1.	RACOB AO staff.	7
2.	CSO/NGOs dealing with children Issues in Bukomasimbi.	6
3.	Children.	87
4.	Parents, care takers/givers and local community.	259
5.	Local government officials [duty bearers]ie LC 1-3 & 5], CAO, CDOs, DEO, DHO, Health workers, Counsellors	41
	Total	400

Source: Field Data.

2.4 SAMPLING OF RESPONDENTS:

Stratified random sampling, cluster random sampling and purposive sampling constituted the major sampling techniques in selecting various categories of respondents targeted for this study namely: children, parents/care givers, district leadership, RACOB AO staff, CSO officials, local community in general. The selection of these various categories of respondents was based on their possession of information required for this baseline study and thus knowledge ability of what was being investigated. The purpose of using judgmental/ purposive sampling was to avoid the potential of selecting a “bad” or odd sample. In applying cluster sampling and stratified

random sampling, respondents were stratified on the basis of gender, age and clustered based on areas of residence and later purposively selected. Snowball sampling was considered for children whose rights were violated.

2.5 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION:

This section provides detailed description of the road-map used for executing the assignment. The consultants employed both participatory [qualitative] and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis. Descriptive study design was considered to guide the process of data collection and analysis on matters concerning: prevalence and drivers of child rights abuses and mechanisms in place by the community and state in addressing the matter including their level of effectiveness. The qualitative and quantitative methods deployed for data collection and analysis were: in-depth document reviews (Secondary data review), Key Informant Interviews, Observation, FGDs, Survey/use of questionnaires and Consultative Meetings. Choice of participatory methods was inherent in their ability to generate deep and rich information on the subject investigated. Quantitative methods were deployed to validate findings from qualitative methods and to generate statistical interpretation of findings.

2.5.1 Consultative Meetings:

The consultants organized consultative meetings with RACOBABO team and district stakeholders namely the CDOs of Butenga and Kibinge. This was to allow for comprehensive analysis and incorporation of their views and recommendations into our approach and report. Consultative meetings also allowed for clarification and streamlining of our approach and methods for accomplishing this work. Consultations were also meant to clarify on the areas that need more attention and focus during the assignment. The consultative meeting recommended that; views of both political and technical leaders in local government should be sought; that the NGOs involved in child rights programming should be identified and visited; case stories from the District Probation Office or by children should be documented where possible and that Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures should be observed during the exercise. The meetings also



recommended the CDOs to be part of the process in identifying respondents and guiding the research team.

Plate 2.1: Consultation Meeting with RACOBABO staff

2.5.2 In-depth Document Review (Review of Secondary Data):

The consultants sourced and reviewed project documents such as: National Strategies and Reports on State of Children in Uganda and district specific status reports. Such reports included: National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy (2015), Baseline survey on Child Protection Systems in Uganda (2013), Uganda Violence against Children Survey (2018)

2.5.3 Key Informant Interviews:

In-depth interviews were held with selected stakeholders namely; RACOBABO management on

their implementation arrangements, roles and procedures and project activities to be undertaken. Others were selected project beneficiaries (children, care givers/parents and community members, Child centred institutions/ officials on their roles. The purpose of conducting interviews was to generate deeper understanding and analysis of the status of children, child abuse and protection in the Bukomansimbi district. An interview guide was designed to help in the process of data collection from the selected respondents.

2.5.4 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

Four (4) FGDs were conducted with local community members two [2] in Butenga and two [2] in Kibinge sub-counties of Bukomansimbi. The purpose was to get deeper understanding from the local community on the drivers of violation of children rights, the perpetrators of children rights abuse, case stories and mechanisms in place at family and community level for mitigating



violation of children rights. A topic guide was designed to guide the process of data collection from the respondents.

Plate 2.2: FGD with community leaders of Butenga Sub-county:

2.5.5 Survey method/Use of Questionnaires:

Survey method was employed to allow for generation of some statistical data and to give value to the voices of the people generated through interviews and FGDs. A questionnaire was developed with detailed questions capturing specific objectives of the study. The purpose of using survey method/questionnaires was triangulation. Use of questionnaires to enlist information also gave opportunity to stakeholders who had the relevant information required for this study and yet did not have time to engage in participatory techniques and methods. This group of respondents was selected from the general pool of stake holders namely; CSO officials and LG officials [duty bearers].

2.5.6 Child Specific Focused Methods of Data Collection:

To obtain information/data from children on extent of violation of their rights, the consultants used an array of methods namely: interviews, focus group discussions and observation. **Surveys [questionnaire]** were used in the form of an **interview schedule** because of the setting/context specific issues in which most of the children in Bukomasimbi found difficulty in reading and writing.

(a) **Interviews:**

Interviews were conducted with selected children, those who were able to express themselves independently and of the ages 12-18. Questions for interviews were developed in line with major

themes of the baseline study namely: prevalence of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi district; factors responsible for child abuse and suggestions to addressing violation of children rights. An interview guide was developed to guide the process of data collection. The use of this methods enabled the consultants to obtain independent and detailed views from children about violation of their rights and the way forward.

(b) Interview Schedule:

In this technique of data collection, questionnaires were developed with child friendly questions but specifically designed to solicit information from children for statistical analysis. The questionnaires were used in the form of an interview guide but having closed ended questions. It was developed in such a way that questions required simple answers such as True, not true, not sure OR Yes, No and those with alternatives that required ticking the most correct answer. The questions were tailored to addressing the following major areas: prevalence of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi district; factors responsible for child abuse and recommendations/ suggestions.

(c) Observation:

Observation was used to supplement other methods of data collection and to allow for validation of data from other sources (methods). Observation sheet (checklist) was drawn containing key



issues observed. Such included among others conditions in which children lived, existing project activities addressing children issues, their level and manner of implementation, quality of social services offered by schools, health facilities and including water sources.

Plate: 2.3 Mothers shouldering the burden of taking care of children

2.6 DATA CODING, CLEANING, ENTRY, AND ANALYSIS:

In order to ensure consistency and validity of every instrument checks were embedded in the data entry software. The data entry process was closely supervised by the data manager of the team. After data entry, the data was cleaned to guarantee consistency. Data from reviews, literature & KIIs were typed in MS-Word 2013 and analyzed and synthesized mainly using qualitative techniques and to some extent quantitative techniques [for what required to be quantified]. Overall, the process involved data deduction, displaying data and drawing conclusions. Quantitative and qualitative data was triangulated and synthesized to guide the process of report writing.

2.7 DATA QUALITY CONTROL MECHANISMS:

The following data quality mechanisms were put in place to ensure data quality control. The consultants worked hand in hand a team of research assistants recruited on the basis of their competencies and qualifications in research and baseline surveys. The assistants were thoroughly trained before taking on the assignment. The purpose of this was to reduce errors in data collection. The consultants also most importantly used officially generated data – that which had gone through serious review process before it was finally published. Triangulation of data collection methods and tools with appropriate use of questionnaires, observation sheets,

interview and topic guides on issues related to violation of children rights was emphasised. The consultants also on daily basis monitored progress of data collection as they worked hand in hand with the research assistants.

2.8 FEEDBACK MEETING/VALIDATION WORKSHOP:

To build consensus and enrich the report on violation of children rights, a feedback meeting [debriefing session] will be organized for selected staff of RACOBABO and its partners. The purpose will be to validate findings and agree on the common way forward. A draft review report will be developed to guide the review process and presented in power point format during validation and dissemination workshops.

3.0 BASELINE SURVEY FINDINGS:

3.1 INTRODUCTION:

This chapter presents finding of the baseline study. Findings are presented and discussed thematically. Thematic presentation is in line with the demographics of respondents; prevalence of common child rights abuses in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge in Bukomansimbi District; factors that are responsible for Child abuse in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge in Bukomansimbi District; current mechanisms in place used in the prevention and protection of children within the communities and how accessible these are to children and relevant and recommendations relative to the identified child rights abuses.

3.1.1 About Bukomansimbi District:

Bukomansimbi is one of the districts in central Uganda carved from the then greater Masaka. Bukomansimbi started functioning officially on 1st July 2010. It is comprised of four [4] sub-counties namely: Kibinge, Bigasa, Kitanda, Butenga and one [1] town council. Bukomansimbi is bordered by Gomba district in the North, Kalungu district to the east, Masaka district to the southeast, Lwengo district to the southwest and Sembabule district to the northwest. Bukomansimbi district headquarters, lies approximately 25 kilometres, by road, Northwest of Masaka, the nearest large city. It is approximately 150 kilometres (93 miles), by road, from Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. The coordinates of Bukomansimbi District are: 00 10S, 31 39E. The district has a total land area of about 600 sq. Kms.

The Climate of Bukomansimbi district is tropical in nature, being modified by relief and nearness to Lake Victoria. The rainfall pattern is bimodal having two seasons with dry spells between July and August, and January to March. The months of March, April and May receive very heavy and well-distributed rains of up to 1,200mm. The second season occurs in the months of September to December.

Bukomansimbi district has a population density of about 252 persons per sq. km according to NPHC 2014. The 2014 National Census puts the District total population at 151,413, about 76,304 females and 75,109 males. The projected total population by 2020 stands at 155,800. Butenga Sub-county has the largest population size (38,455) as compared to other Sub-counties. Majority of the households are headed by men (102,735; 68.3%) compared to women headed households (47,682; 31.7%) and average household size is 4.4%. Most of the population lives in rural areas. The 2014 NPHC indicates that about 17.7% of Bukomansimbi population consume less than 2 meals a day and 81% of the district depends on subsistence farming. And according to the UNHS 2016/17, 24.3% of the population are living below poverty line.

3.1.2 The Concept of Child Abuse/Violation of Children Rights:

Every child has the right to be protected from violence and live free from fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation. Yet three quarters [3/4] of children in Uganda experience some form of violence. Most children (68% boys and 59% girls) have experienced physical violence, while

one in three [1/3] girls and one in six [1/6] boys suffer sexual abuse. The scars can last a lifetime and often result in mental health issues and psychological distress during adulthood [Save the Children – Uganda - <https://uganda.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/child-protection>]. UNICEF on the other hand explain what child abuse/violation is, **box 3.1**.

A person is abusing or violating a child if he or she:

- (a) Beats a child;
- (b) Burns a child's hand or other body parts;
- (c) Sexually abuses a child or if a girl is forced to engage in sex against her own free will;
- (d) Leaves the child alone with no one to look after him/her;
- (e) Denies the child food or drink;
- (f) Locks the child out of the house;
- (g) Curses or shouts a lot at the child;
- (h) Teases a child too much and makes him/her feel stupid;
- (i) Demeans a child by spitting on her/him;
- (j) Forces a child into child marriage (before the age of 18);
- (k) Has the genitals of a girl/woman mutilated/cut.

The Uganda Children's Act, 2016 (as amendment) defines "violence" as "any form of physical, emotional or mental injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation, including sexual abuse, intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against an individual which may result in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation."

Box 3.1, Understanding child abuse/violation [UNICEF]:

Source: www.unicef.org

Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, and or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a caregiver that results in actual or potential harm to a child, and can occur in a child's home, or in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with.

The concept "caregiver" is broadly and inclusively conceived to encompass parents of the child, stepparents or any household member or person who at the time in question is entrusted with a child's welfare, whether in the child's home, a relative's home, a school setting, a child care setting (including babysitting), a foster home, a group care facility, or any other comparable setting. As such "caregiver" includes, but is not limited to:

School teachers,
Babysitters,
School bus drivers,
Senior lady/man

Box 3.2, Understanding child abuse/violation [Massachusetts Children's Alliance]:

Source: www.machi

3.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS FOR THE STUDY

Background information of respondents was captured for this baseline study to allow for cross-referencing of findings generated from the study. A total of 400 respondents were reached [table 2.1] through consultations, interviews and FGDs. Of the 400 respondents, 87 were children [whose data is captured/presented separately, from that of adults]. To

generate statistical data, questionnaires were designed in line with specific objectives and administered to respondents in the form of interview schedules. The intention was to allow for capturing of both quantitative and qualitative information from respondents. Of the 313 adult respondents reached by this study seven [7] RACOBASO staff took part during the consultation process to provide more information about the project and total of **21 respondents** participated in **FGDs**. With exception of the background information of respondents [tables 3.1 and 3.2], the statistical data presented in this report is representative of **292 adult** respondents and **87 child** respondents.

Table 3.1: Background Information of Respondents [Adults]

Age group (years)	No. of Respondents	%
≤ 20	22	7%
21 - 30	88	28%
31 - 40	75	24%
41 - 50	97	31%
50+	31	10%
Total	313	100.0%
Gender/ Sex	No. of Respondents	%
Male	158	50.4%
Female	155	49.6%
Total	313	100.0%
Religious affiliation	No. of Respondents	%
Catholic	190	61%
Protestant/ Anglican	50	16%
Islam	19	6%
Born Again/ Pentecostal	13	4%
Others	41	13%
Total	313	100.0%
Education of Respondents	No. of Respondents	%
None	28	9%
Primary	106	34%
Secondary	110	35%
Tertiary	69	21.9%
Total	313	100%
Marital status	No. of Respondents	%
Single	124	40%
Married	141	45%
Divorced/ separated	19	6%
Widowed	13	4%
Co-habiting	16	5%
Total	313	100%
Disability Status	No. of Respondents	%
Disabled	6	2%
Able/ Not Disabled	307	98%
Total	313	100%

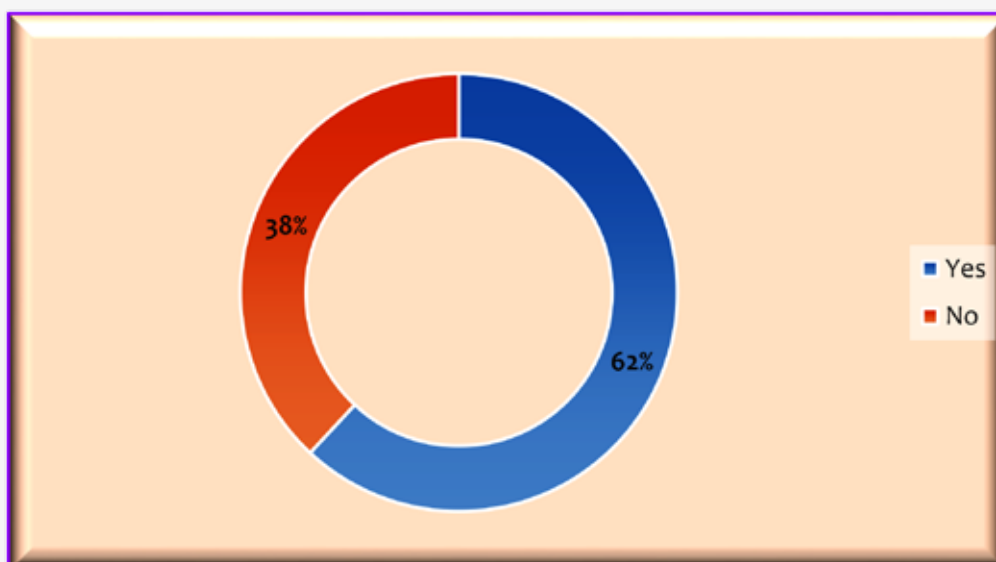
Source: Field data

Table 3.2: Background Information of Respondents [Children]

Age group (years)	No. of Respondents	%
6 -10.	23	26%
11 - 15.	50	58%
16+	14	16%
Total	87	100.0%
Gender/ Sex	No. of Respondents	%
Male	43	49%
Female	44	51%
Total	87	100.0%
Status	No. of Respondents	%
Yes	83	95%
No	4	5%
Total	87	100.0%
Education of Respondents	No. of Respondents	%
None	4	5%
Primary	65	75%
Secondary	15	17%
Tertiary	3	3%
Total	87	100%
Disability Status	No. of Respondents	%
No	87	100.0%
Total	87	100.0%
Child status	No. of Respondents	%
Has parents	77	89%
Orphaned	8	9%
Fostered/ adopted	2	2%
Total	87	100%
Child status	No. of Respondents	%
With parents	68	78%
With relatives	17	20%
With Non- relatives	2	2%
Total	87	100%

Source: Field data

3.3 PREVALENCE OF CHILD RIGHTS ABUSE IN BUKOMANSIMBI DISTRICT.



An assessment was conducted to establish the extent of prevalence of child rights abuse in Bukomansimbi district. Details of the findings are as presented in **chart 3.1**.

Chart 3.1: Extent of Violation of Children Rights in Bukomansimbi District:

Source: Field data

N = 292

The statistics in **chart 3.1** indicates that child rights violations in Bukomansimbi district are relatively high [62%] as highlighted by responses on prevalence of cases of child abuse. This statistic reveals that six [6] out of every ten [10] children experience some form of violation of rights, about 3 out of every 5 children are subjected to some form of abuse. Most of the cases of violation of children rights are in the array of child neglect and mistreatment by parents/ caregivers in terms of denying children food, subjecting children to all forms of labor, battering, not taking children to school, failure to treat a step child when sick]. Others are; defilement [which has also led to rising cases of teenage pregnancies], rape [obtaining carnal knowledge of a girl without her consent or through trickery], **chart 3.2** gives a detailed account of this.

3.3.1 Forms of Child Abuse:

From the above definitions [box 3.1 and 3.2] child abuse takes many forms which forms are the same throughout the country inclusive of Bukomasimbi district. **Chart 3.2** represents the views of respondents in respect of the existing forms of child abuse in Bukomansimbi district. Respondents were asked if they had seen a child abused in the last 1 year and to name the form of abuse. In general terms, physical, sexual, and or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children are the broad forms of child abuse which are further categorized in specific forms, **Table 3.4**.

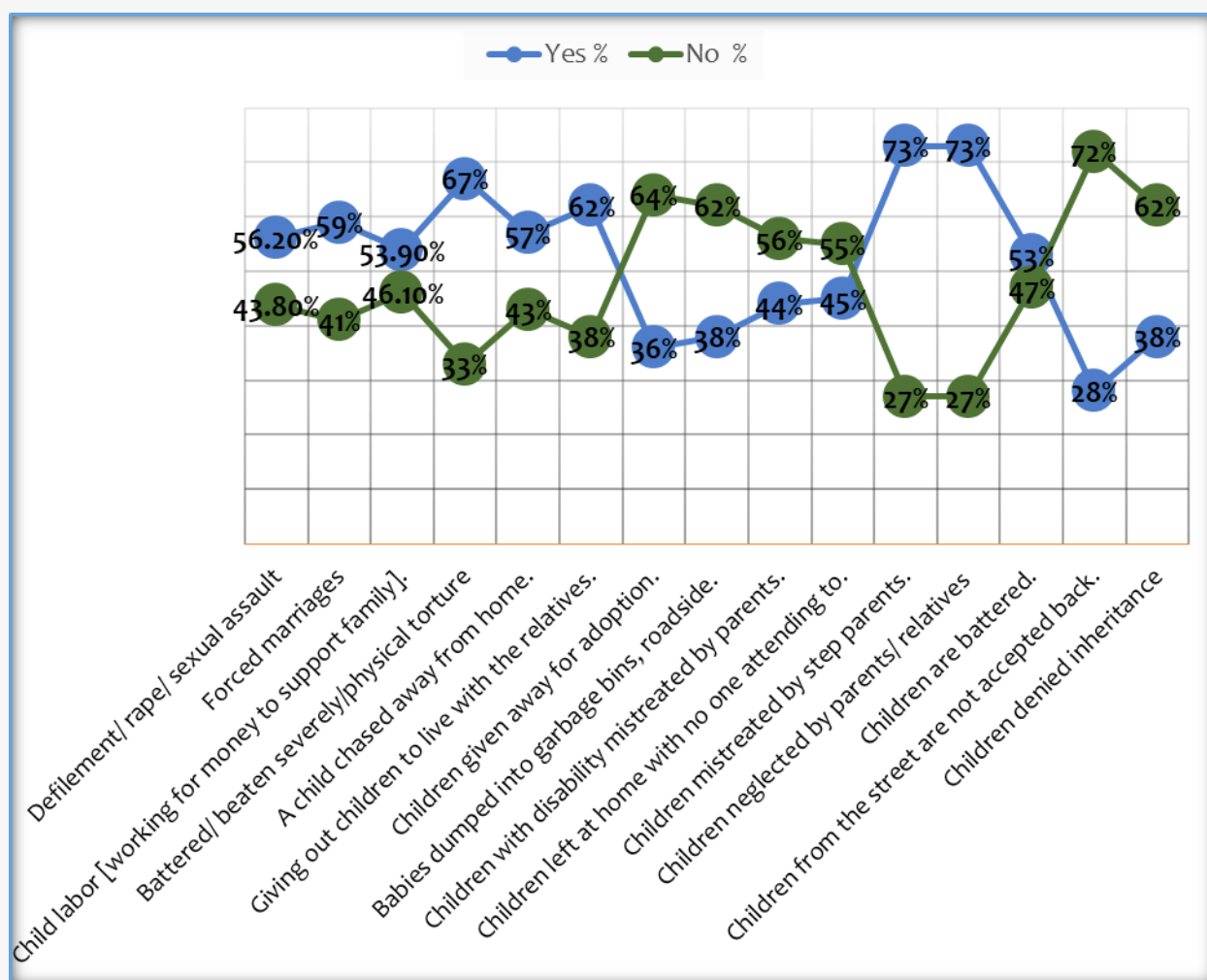


Chart 3.2: Forms of Child Abuse in Bukomasimbi, District [Also showing Extent of Violation]:

Source: **Field Data**

N = 292

An assessment was made to establish the common forms of child abuse in Bukomasimbi as reflected in **chart 3.2**. Findings in **chart 3.2**, indicate that the most common form of child abuse in Bukomasimbi is mistreatment of children by step parents and Children being neglected by caregivers/parents/relatives in which both, account for **73%** of responses on whether respondents had had an experience in which a child was subjected to rights violation in the last one-year period. The aspect of step parents mistreating children is rooted in the growing cases of separation, divorce and co-habiting among parents that are growing in Bukomasimbi. In the event of separation or divorce, a partner may go ahead and enters into another relationship which opens way for various forms of child abuse namely: denying children food, subjecting children to all forms of labor, battering, not taking children to school, failure to treat a step child when sick, defilement, just to mention. In this regard on of the respondents during focus group discussions had this to say:

“Nayomi [not real name], a 10-year-old and a resident of Butenga sub-county, Bukomasimbi district is one of the children in Kintu’s [not real name] family who was defiled by a step parent. The case was reported to Police. Investigations were carried

out and thereafter the perpetrator was arrested” [Community Leader – Butenga].

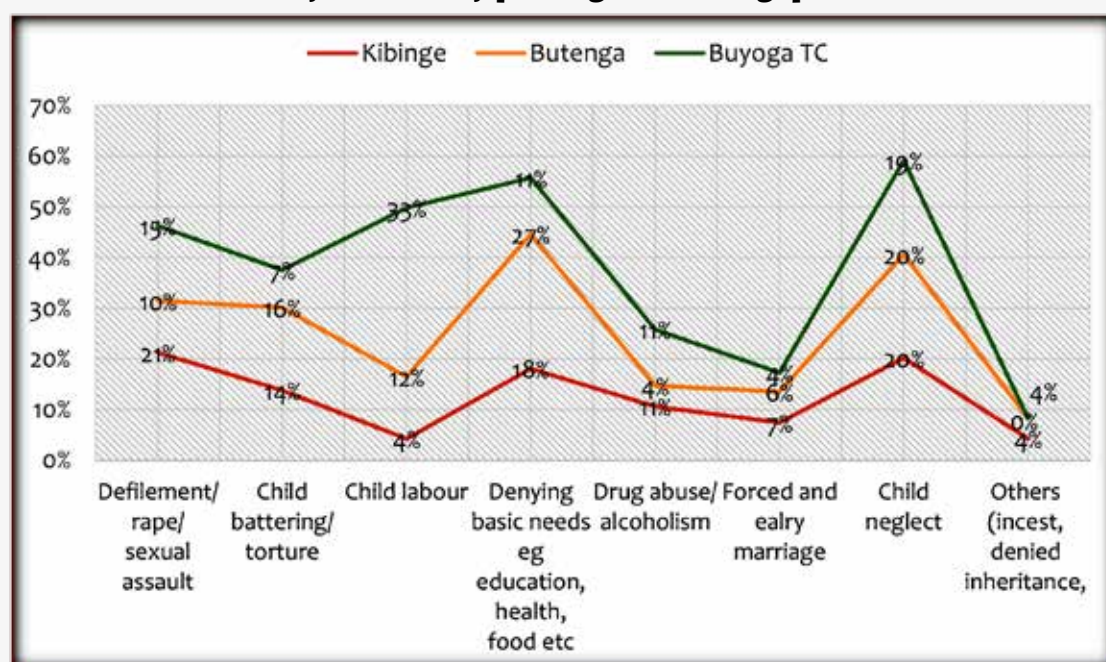
This is one among the many cases of violation of children rights that fall under families that previously separated. Some of the cases of violation of children rights in families where the parents separated and live with step parents are not reported. Sometimes children are warned not to let such scenarios out or else meet the wrath of the parent. There also incidences where such cases are reported to Police and once bribed the perpetrators are let free. The other is that there is no heavy punishment often levied on perpetrators, a factor that has led to a rise in cases of violation of children rights.

Generally, mistreatment of children by step parents [73%], battering of children [67%], child neglect by caregivers/parents/relatives [73%], and giving out children to live with relatives denying them of parental love and care [62%] stood out as the most common forms of violation of children rights. The least form of violation of children rights is where children who ran away into the street would not be accepted back to the community [28%]. Reasons why some street children would not be accepted back to the community was that Bukomansinmbi records very few of such cases where children run to the streets and that even if such children went to the streets, community members would be willing to welcome them back except for notorious cases where such children had turned out to be notorious thieves or a gang of thugs.

“These days we do not have children here who run to the streets. Such cases happened those days when HIV? AIDS was at its peak in the 1990s and early 2000s. Kitovu Mobile has been around for a long period making sure that relatives take good care of orphans. It has also set up farmer field schools where the orphans and vulnerable children are taught vocational skills such as setting up coffee nurseries, passion fruit growing, piggery and hairdressing among others” Local Women’s leader, Butenga.

Despite the support from Kitovu Mobile and other NGOs children continue to face a number of violations that call for a comprehensive approach to address such violations. This is a vital entry point for RACOBABO to come up with an all-encompassing approach to create awareness, create community led mechanisms to report, mediate and address cases of violation of children rights.

3.3.2 Forms of Child Abuse by Sub-County [Butenga and Kibinge]



An analysis was also conducted to identify forms of child abuse by sub-county. The intension was

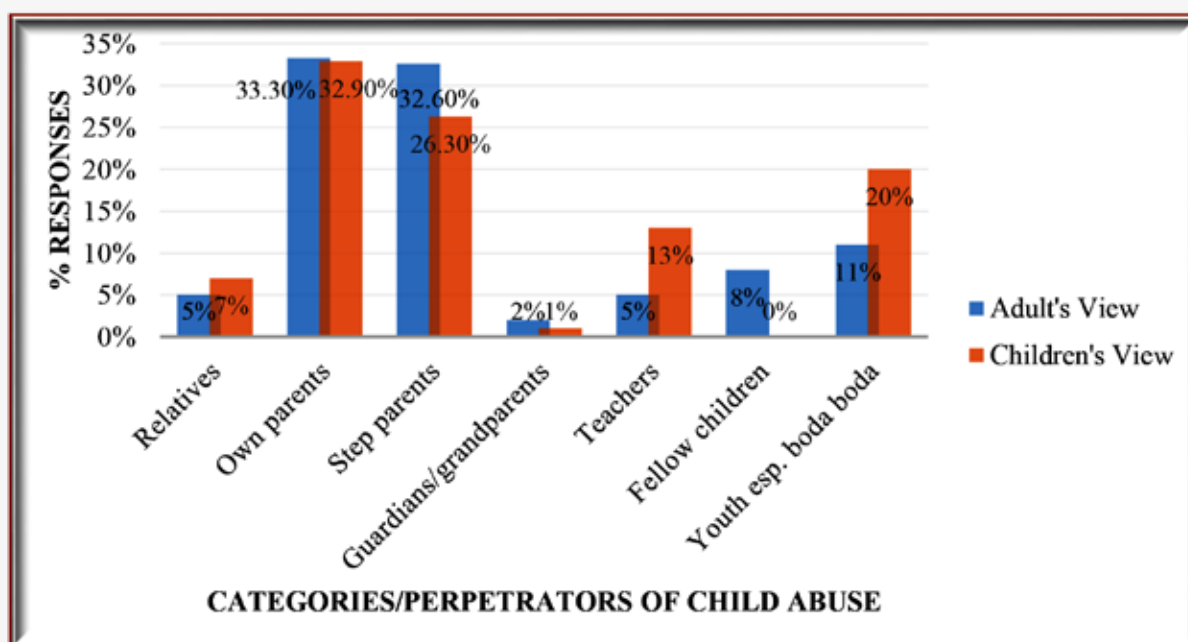
to find out if there were variations according to sub counties and urban settings, **chart 3.3**.

Chart 3.3: Forms of Child Abuse by Sub-county:

Source: **Field Data**

Chart 3.3, indicates that child labour was the most prevalent in Buyoga Town Council with a score of 33% while forced and early marriage were the lowest in it with 4%. Child labour and neglect were the two major forms that ranked highest in Buyoga Town Council altogether accounting for 53% of the responses on forms of child abuse. Denying children basic needs was ranked the highest form of child abuse in Butenga sub-county with 27% of responses on forms of child abuse. This was followed by Child neglect at 20% of which the two alone accounted for 47% of forms of child abuse in Butenga sub-county. In the same sub county, the least common form of child abuse was child labour and others like incest at 4%. However in Kibinge sub county, sexual related abuses such as defilement, rape and sexual assault were ranked highest (21%) followed by denial of basic needs at 18%. Child labour and other forms of abuse like denying inheritance, incest were ranked lowest at 4%. Discussions on why child labour scored highest in urban setting was related to the use of young girls as house maids and baby sitters, a practice that is so common in most urban areas of Uganda.

3.3.3 Perpetrators of Child Abuse in Bukomansimbi:



The study also sought to identify the main perpetrators of child abuse in Bukomansimbi district, **chart 3.4**.

Chart 3.4: Perpetrators of Child Abuse in Bukomansimbi [Adults and Children's View].

Source: **Field data**

N = 292

Chart 3.4, indicates that children's own parents are the main perpetrators of child abuse accounting for 33.3% [adults view] of total responses on categories of perpetrators of violation of children rights. Second in this category are step parents [32.6%]. Parents and step parents alone account for 65.9% of cases of violation of children rights. The least in this category are guardians/grandparents [2%]. Youth/boda-boda riders [11%] and teachers [5%] were mostly associated with cases of rape and defilement.

Despite some differences, interviews with children ranked own parents as the main perpetrators of child abuse [32.9%] and step parents came second with a percentage response of 26.3%. Despite the fact that adult respondents indicated fellow children were partly responsible for

violation of children rights, the children on the other hand recorded no response/zero response on this matter. The youth especially boda-boda cyclists and teachers were counted among the main perpetrators of child abuse with a score of 20%. Mentioned here by the children were cases rape and defilement.

Mistreatment of children by step parents and Child neglect by caregivers/parents/relatives stood as the main forms of child abuse, **chart 3.4**. The main concerns raised by respondents were that some parents engage child labor especially during growing and harvesting of tomatoes and coffee. Concerns of child neglect were common especially among young families and those engaged into heavy drinking. Poverty was also raised as the main factor behind parents' failure to provide for their children.

3.3.4 Category of Children Most Abused [By Age; Gender/Sex; Education]:

The study sought to find out the category of children most abused, **table 3.3**.

Table 3.3: Categories of Children Abused by Age; Gender; Economic Status and Parental Status

Category by Age group	No. of respondents	%
0 - 5.	29	10%
6 - 10.	102	35%
11 - 15.	155	53%
16+	6	2%
Totals	292	100%
Category by Sex/ Gender	No. of respondents	%
Male	149	51%
Female	143	49%
Totals	292	100%
Category by Economic Status	No. of respondents	%
Rich	20	7%
Middle income	88	30%
Poor	184	63%
Totals	292	100%
Status Whether Orphaned or Not	No. of respondents	%
Orphaned	190	65%
Not Orphaned	102	35%
Totals	292	100%

Source: **Filed Data:**

Table 3.3, reveals that children in the **age bracket 11 – 15** were the most vulnerable to abuse. Reasons given were that they are vulnerable due to search for self-identity as young adolescents. They were also seen as the age group that is “stubborn” and too old to be called children and yet too young to be called adults. In this respect one of the respondents had this to say;

*“The age group 11 – 15 is that age group which is seen as energetic, aggressive and uncontrollable. They are energetic and aggressive in that they can work in the **gardens/fields** /offer labor in all forms. They can **take care of other young ones** and yet can also be sexually manipulated. They are denied play as they are introduced to taking on family/households’ roles. Because body changes that they experience as a result of being adolescents such as development of breast for girls, some of them assume to be of age. This makes them vulnerable especially to **sexual manipulation** by perpetrators like bodaboda riders”, **Retired Female Teacher, Butenga**.*

Age category of 16+ was categorized by respondents as that age group exiting adolescents. Having gone through the epic times of adolescence, this age group was reported to be less vulnerable as compared to age group 11 – 15. At this stage, children begin to mature and are able to judge, to an extent what is right and wrong, what is acceptable by society and not acceptable. They can protect themselves and can identify risks. Some of the “children” at this age were said to be already leading independent lives in that they work and provide for themselves. Some of them are said to have grown big bodies and thus are able to scare away some abusers especially sex predators:

“Some girls even at 16 years look like 30-year old. As such, even those with ill intentions fear to abuse them”, Local leader, Butenga.

On, which gender was more vulnerable to abuse, responses were almost balancing though males stood to be the most abused [51%] as opposed to 49% females. Interaction with respondents during FGDs and KII confirmed that boys were more vulnerable to abuse for the reason that it is often male children that are subjected to garden work and also punished heavily whenever they made mistakes or committed a crime.

... look here; when a 17-year-old defiles a girl of same age, the boy is committed to court for trial. Why this discrimination yet both are considered children [below 18 years], Retired Civil Servant.

Economic status was considered one of the variables that defines the level of vulnerability of children to abuse. Findings on **table 3.5**, show that children from poor families were the most vulnerable [63%] to abuse compared to well to do families [7%]. During the KIIs, poverty was considered a major factor responsible for violation of children rights in households labeled as poor. Some of the statements made are as follows:

..... “it is children from poor families that drop out of school because their parents most often are unable to pay their fees. It’s also these children who are subjected to child labor working as maids and house boys in the middle income and rich families... even when they look for jobs to support themselves and their families, they don’t have bargaining power and are paid peanuts or according to the wishes of the employer. Sometimes they are even chased away without pay in the pretext that they didn’t do good job... sometimes when they are given food during working hours, their pay is reduced to cater for the food they ate, a poor child really suffers”, Responses from KIIs and FGDs.

When children were asked how much they are paid when they offer labor, the response was that they are paid between UGX 1,000 – 5,000 per day worked. Some of the areas of assignments they engage in are: digging in people’s gardens, fetching water, harvesting and drying coffee. This type of work would always fetch not less than UGX 5,000 per day. Other areas of work are: workers as porters at building sites, making, assembling and burning bricks. These ones would a few times fetch a child between UGX 6,000 and 8,000 per day. Probed if the children and adults working in the same site as porters were paid the same amount, children reported that adults were paid more namely between UGX 8,000 and 10,000 per day worked.

This study felt it necessary to analyze vulnerability of children to abuse based on their status as orphans or not. **About, 65%** of the respondents had it that orphaned children were the most vulnerable to abuse as opposed to none orphaned children [35%]. FGDs and KIIs gave an

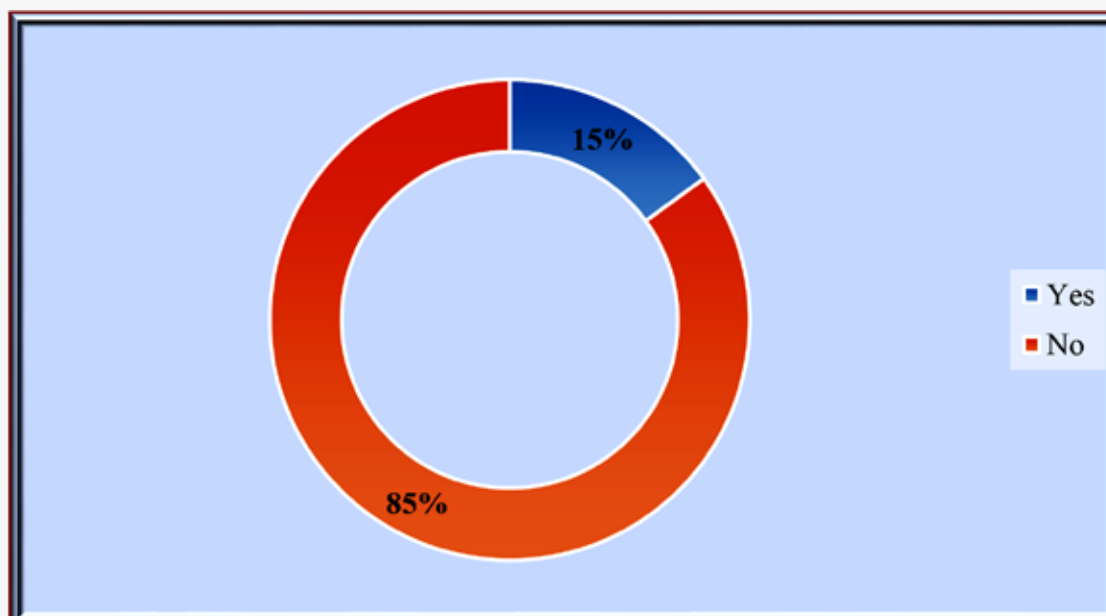
account why orphans are more vulnerable. Most of the participants during FGDs and KII had it that orphans are more vulnerable because most guardians *discriminate against orphans*. That orphans who lost a father were most affected by relatives whose interest is to *grab property such as land, houses, cows or even coffee plantations* from the deceased family. Orphaned children were also said to have no voice as far as their properties are concerned. Here under are some of the verbatim statements captured during interviews and FGDs:

... some relatives come pretending to be so nice to orphans yet with ill motive of finding documents of the deceased such as land titles, sale agreements that can help them grab property of the deceased. Once they land on such items, they become hostile to orphans. Cases were sited where the so called “Uncle” set up and got orphaned children arrested and jailed so that he could grab their property.

For the case of children who are not orphaned, violation of their rights comes from the fact that they are from extremely poor families, such as the land less or families where parents have separated and now live with the step mother/father. Issues often arise in which such children are subjected to different forms of abuse such as *hard labor, defilement* in case it is a girl child, *denied food or not given treatment* in the even he/she fell sick. Other children in the category of those living with parents but having their rights violated are those whose parents are drunkards or have moved away from the village to look for casual work in urban places like Masaka, Bukomansimbi or even at Kibinge coffee factory.

3.3.5 Child Labor and Exploitation:

Because a lot of interest by many development actors, NGOs/ civil society and government on child labour and exploitation is receiving traction nationally and globally, this study also picked interest to explore into aspects of child labor and exploitation. A question was posed to community members and care givers to find out if there was any child in their community, they



know who works for money. The responses are presented **chart 3.5**:

Chart 3.5: Responses on Child Labor and Exploitation:

Source: Field data

N = 292

From **chart 3.5**, only 15% respondents reported that they had seen children under their parents/

caregivers or relatives working for money. This indicatively means that about **2 out of 10 children**, about **1 out of every 5 children** work for money either to meet own needs or to support their families. Children in this category engaged in various forms of jobs to earn money namely: digging in people's gardens in which they were involved in weeding coffee and banana plantations, planting maize, beans and any other crops depending on the seasons. Others were involved in fetching water for a fee; brick laying, working at building sites as porters, harvesting and drying coffee and beans, grazing cattle, riding boda-boda, making and selling pancakes and also hawking fruits and other vegetables.



Plate 3.1: Children involved in labor activities to raise money for upkeep.

Based on the findings from interviews and FGDs this study concludes that Kawooko and Kisita in Butenga Sub-county and Kisojjo; Maleku and Mirambi in Kibinge sub-county are the most affected parishes in Bukomansimbi. The main forms of violation in these parishes is child neglect which arise from three [3] major factors namely: the influence of alcohol, poverty and family breakages. Such scenarios have resulted into parent's failure to provide basics for their children namely: food, education, shelter, medical care, dressing including parental love and care.

3.4 DRIVERS/FACTORS OF CHILD ABUSE IN BUKOMANSIMBI:

An assessment was done to establish drivers of child abuse in Bukomansimbi district, **chart 3.6**.

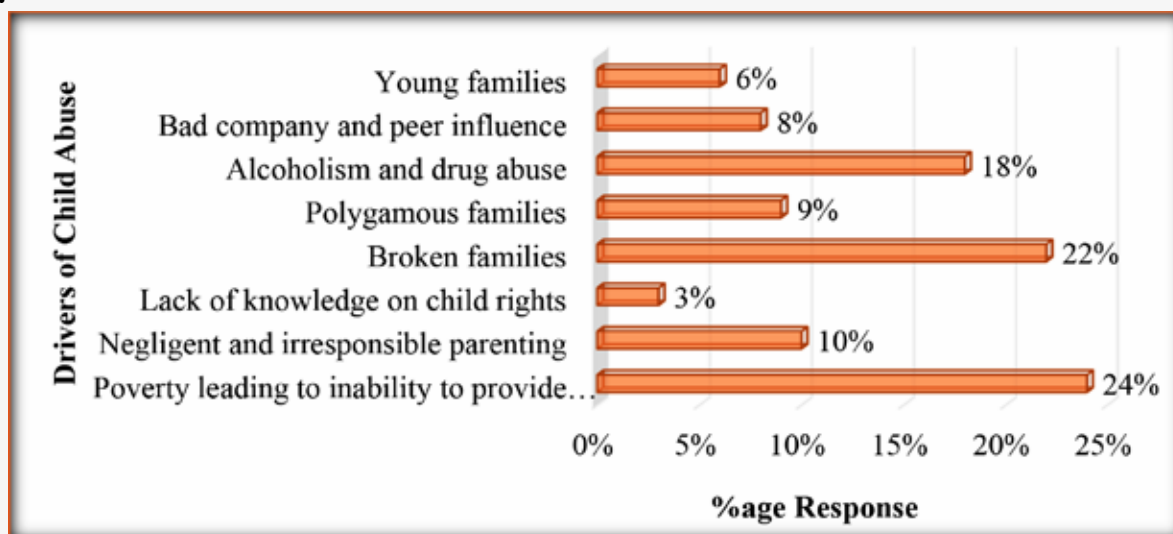


Chart 3.6: Drivers of Child Abuse in Bukomansimbi

Source: **Field Data****N = 292**

Chart 3.6, shows that poverty is a leading factor [24%] responsible for violation of children rights in Bukomansimbi. This is because poverty undermines parent's ability to provide basic needs for the family. A poverty-stricken family was described as that which does not have land, has no coffee plantation, its family members receive one [1] meal a day, has poor shelter and lacks beddings. According to the respondents, a person who is poor is often that who provides labour working in people's gardens or homes. Such families often had their children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation in different ways.

Broken families took second position [22%] in violation of children rights. Broken families were considered as those families where marriage had failed and resulted in separation and or divorce. As a result, children may remain with one of the parents or the parent (mostly male) re-married. Broken families were said to be characterized by fights/ violence, negligence and lack of care for children. All in all, poverty, broken families and alcoholism stood as the main drivers of violation of children rights accounting for 64% of responses on factors for violation of children rights. The least of all factors was lack of knowledge about children rights [3%]. Negligence among parents [10%] was also considered as one of the rising behaviors among parents opening way for child abuse. According to information generated through interviews some families "exist in name" and yet in actual sense they are non-existent. Some of the parents in such families were considered as absentee parents despite their existence in real sense. In such family's parents were reported not to be bothered with meeting children's needs such as health, education, food, clothing, shelter. They never have time for their children to support them and guide them to grow up well. In this accord one of the respondents during KIIs had this to say:

In such families the saying "every one for himself and God for us applies". Children, however young have to find food for themselves sometimes by scavenging to the neighbors, working for food by doing by working in people's gardens, drying coffee, fetching water. It is such children who drop early from school and also go to urban centers to look for domestic work as house maids or house boys, (Respondent, ButayunjaKibinge sub-county).

Although the cases are not so many, such families do exist and have subjected their own children into gross rights violations. In such families, women are left alone to try and find something to eat for her children. Most times the little they can afford is food and when it comes to education, medical care or dressing and housing, such women fail and live children to fate. Men engage into heavy drinking and some get concubines and spend all the monies they work for either in drinking or in trying to appease the concubines.

Poor upbringing was reported by respondents as one of the factors behind gross violation of children rights in Bukomansimbi. Respondents highlighted that upbringing of the present-day parents is not good. Some parents mistreat their children and such children ended up being violent when they grow up and become parents. Some of them transferred their anger and frustration to their children and/ or siblings. They harass or violently beat their children or siblings and yet think it is natural/normal for them to do what they are doing. In this regard one parent had this to say; "a thief raises a thief and a monster nurtures a monster." Some of the children whose rights have been violated is not because they don't have parents but because their parents went through rough times and adopted rough life as a habit which they have transferred to their children.

Lack of knowledge on child rights was echoed as one of the drivers of child abuse in Bukomansimbi district. As a result, perpetrators of child abuse mistreat children because they are ignorant of children rights. Like in most African settings, male parents see child rearing and care as the role of a woman and grandparents. Some of the men are never at home to provide that voice of a man in children's upbringing. Some of them leave and go to

work in urban settings living their wives alone with children in the village and yet with little or no support given.

“This category of parents is those who feel life in the village is very difficult and venture to go to urban areas. When they reach there, they find out that life in the urban is not a bed of roses. The only thing they resort to is gambling, womanizing and dinking. Whatever little money they get goes in for such acts and little or no support is given to family members”, [An elder, Mirambi parish Kibinge sub-county].

Children from polygamous families were cited to be vulnerable to abuse. It is in such families that one finds co-wives fighting or beating children of the other partner or a co-wife inciting her children to beat the co-wife's children. In some instances, witchcraft was cited to be performed on the co-wife's children. Most co-wives do not want to see their husbands provide, give attention and or care for her co-wife's children. She always wishes well for her children and wants them to be treated better than the co wife's so that she takes pride as that who is most loved.

Alcoholism/drunkenness exacerbates child abuse and violation of children's rights, highlighted some of the respondents. Alcoholics mind most about drinking but not their children or wives. They are never at home as they spend much of their time in bars and stagger back home late. They do not know how their children are fed, clothed or treated. They are husbands by name. When their wives make some money, they will always struggle to snatch it from them or beat up their wives demanding for money. They sell property including the little harvest made to raise money for drinking leaving their children suffering.

Domestic violence was said to increase child abuse. Violence was taken in the form of quarreling, physical violence like beating/ torture, verbal abuse, neglect, trauma and many more others. Some children were said to have been tortured/ got beaten when parents were fighting. A case was cited of a man who hit the child to death because the woman used the child as shield from further beating by the man.

Young families were considered as those where both parents married young or even if they were of age, got married when they were still young [below the age of 18 and have not lived together for more than 5 years to mature in marriage]. Such families were said to be young in mind, still had childish or adolescent behaviors in them and had not understood their parenting roles.

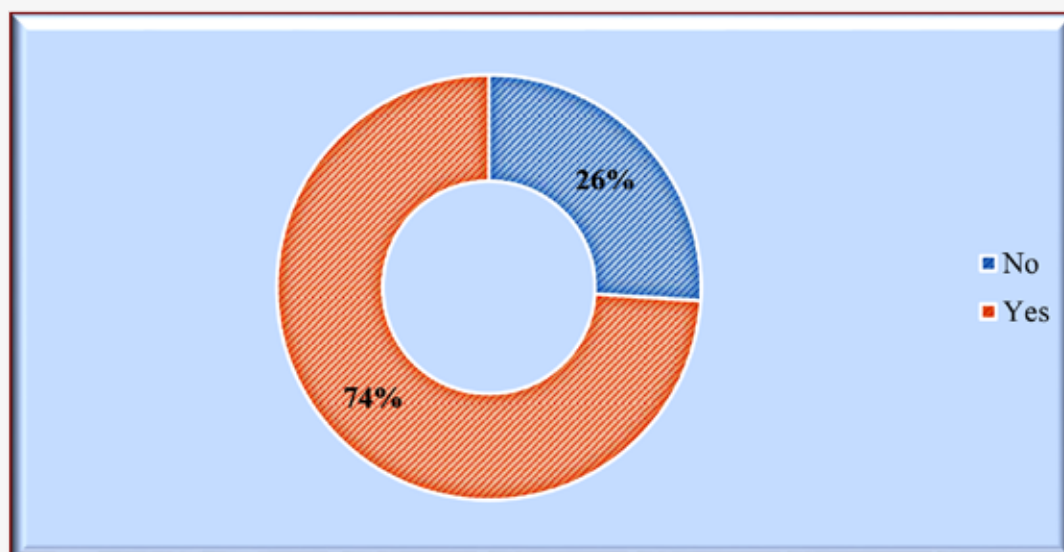
. . . for the sake of young male parents, they still want to hung out with their peers even to the extent of being away from home from 7:00 am [morning] up to late - 2:00 am. Most times they still behave like boys and not household heads who are to provide for their families. For the case of wives, they also tend to behave like young adolescent girls, being with their peers gossiping away. In such families, children were left crying at home when both parents are whirling away on non-family building activities such as gossip and extra marital affairs... . . . it is dusk/ sunset that brings back the first parent home, (Elderly woman, Butenga).

It is sometimes children from young families that are not attended to. They are the ones that are not bathed the whole day, that scavenge to the neighbors to look for food, no one monitors their health to see if they are sick. Such parents are also said to be disrespectful of parents, guardians or traditional Senga (aunt's) advice on parenting and family care and responsibilities.

. . . . these are people who are themselves children and play is still part of their lives. How do you expect them to fully understand and embrace the roles

and responsibilities of parenthood when they themselves still need to be looked after? Asked a Teacher in Buyoga

3.4.1 Respondents Awareness of Children Rights [Adult's View]:



Respondents were asked if they were aware of “children’s Rights”, **Chart 3.7**

Chart 3.7: Respondents [Adults] Awareness of Children Rights.

Source: **Field data**

N = 292

Bukomansimbi is one of the districts in central Uganda prone to high levels of violation of children rights due to poverty. While one would imagine that ignorance of children rights among the populace in Bukomansimbi could be one of the major drivers of violation of children rights, the story is different here. The findings of this baseline, **chart 3.7**, show that most [74%] residents of Bukomansimbi understand children rights. To probe deeper on this finding, the consultants made an assessment of awareness of children rights by age, **chart 3.8**.

3.4.2 Children Awareness of Human Rights by Age Group.

To understand more about violation of children rights in Bukomasimbi district, the study sought to establish children understanding of human rights, **chart 3.8**.

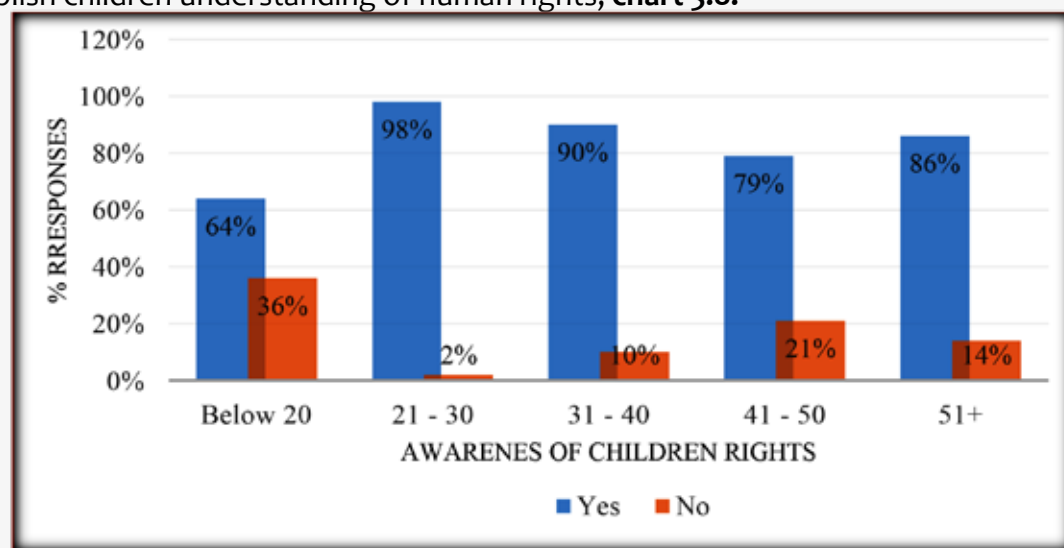


Chart 3.8: Children Awareness of Rights in General.

Source: **Field data**

N = 292/87

According to the findings on **chart 3.8**, age group 21 – 30 had the highest level of awareness at 98% as age group 51+ registered the lowest level of awareness recorded at 14%. Overall, there was 83.4% level of awareness as opposed to 16.6% ignorance, based on the average percentage responses of the Yes and No. This finding is backed up by the excerpts from interviews in which one of the respondents had this to say:

“There are high levels of awareness of child rights here. Caritas/ Masaka Diocese Development Organization – MADD0” has been creating awareness for a long time through radios, seminars and training on human rights and advocacy in our villages”,
Key informant, Kibinge.

It is also noted here that, while CARITAS MADD0 did a commendable job in creating awareness on children rights in Kibinge, Butunga on the other hand had low levels of awareness of children rights and recorded high number of cases of violation of children rights.

3.4.3 Children’s Awareness of Rights by Gender Orientation and Age Group.

Further analysis was conducted to establish if children were aware of their rights by gender orientation and whether there was a relationship between education attainment and children awareness of their rights, **chart 3.9**.

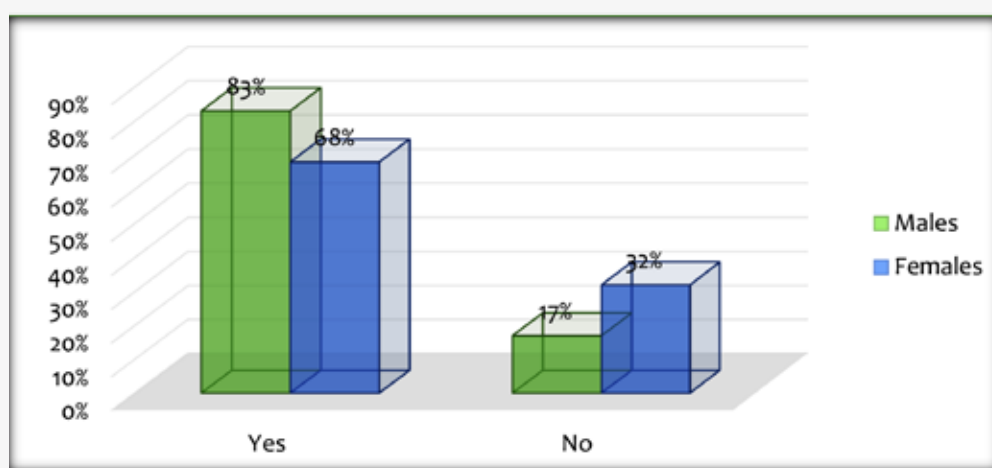


Chart 3.9: Children’s Awareness of Rights by Gender

Source: **Field Data**

Chart 3.9, above indicates that children reached by this study [**83% males** and **68% females**] were aware of their rights.

Table 3.4: Children Awareness of their Rights by Age Group:

children's awareness of rights by Age group	yes	%	No	%	Total
6 - 10.	13	65%	7	35%	20
11 - 15.	41	76%	13	24%	54
16+	8	60%	5	40%	13
Total	62		25		87

Source: **Field Data**

From the table above, **age group 11-15** had the highest level of awareness of their rights [**76%**] as opposed to **age group 16+** with **60%** awareness. **On average, about 67%** of the children reached by this study were aware of their rights. Awareness of rights would mean children are empowered and can stand to defend their rights by reporting to their parents is those violating

their rights are not their parents, to head teachers if violations are emanating from teachers and to other district authorities, if some of these cases are emanating from their parents or care givers. Findings from this study, show that children are not responsive to reporting of cases to respective authorities for the reason that while most of them are aware of their rights, fear and ignorance of channels in which to report cases undermines their efforts to advocate for their rights as one of the children interviewed relays:

“Some of the children in this village have experienced cases of violation of rights. Some are battered by own parents, some drop out of school because their father is a drunkard and unable to pay school fees. Some are starved for being accused of being stubborn. Although they may want to report such cases to Police they are drowned by fear and absence of other reporting lines in this village”, A child in Kibinge Sub-county.

3.4.4 Source of Information on Children Rights:

Investigation was conducted to obtain sources of information on children rights, **chart 3.10**.

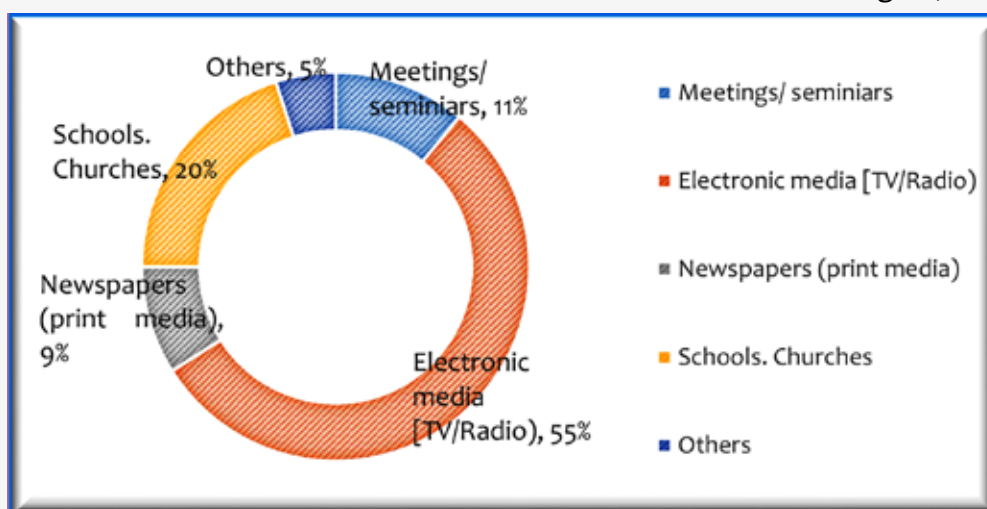


Chart 3.10: Sources of Information on Children Rights:

Source: **Field Data**

N = 292

Findings on sources of information about children rights show that electronic media namely: **radio and television** were the most common source of information accounting for **55%** of the responses. Seminars/workshops, churches and schools altogether accounted for 31% of responses on sources of information about children rights. Other sources of information that accounting for 5% were: the family, parents, personal experience, demonstrations, President's addresses on day of the African Child and the Police. Radios and Televisions have a huge impact on the population in that it has become the main medium of communication on government and development related programs. In the event RACOBABO will be interested in creating awareness on children rights, broadcast media should be considered as an important medium of delivery of messages.

3.4.5 Challenges Faced by Children not living with their Own Parents:

Most often than not, it has always been stated that children who do not live with their own parents suffer more than those who live with own parents. The study further sought to find out the challenges that children who do not live with their own parents' face. The findings are discussed herein below:

Table 3.5: Challenges Faced by Children who are not Living with their Own Parents

Challenge	N	%
Over worked and child labour.	50	17%
Torture [battering/ beating]	35	12%
Denied basic needs [food, clothing, health care etc]	102	35%
Forced to drop out of school	53	18%
Forced into early marriage/ teenage pregnancy	20	7%
Discrimination	12	4%
Denied love and belonging	20	7%
Totals	292	100%

Source: **Field data****N = 292**

Table 3.5, shows that denial of basic needs such as food, clothing, health care, education was the main form of problem faced by children in Bukomansimbi district with a score of **35%**, overall. Inability to provide children with basic needs and children dropping out of school [18%] were mentioned as the major challenges children face in Bukomansimbi district altogether accounting for 53% of the responses on challenges faced by children. Discrimination against children was rated lowest at 4%. The explanations given by some Key informants on challenges faced by children in Bukomansimbi include: Inability to provide children with basic needs was rampant because some parents mistakenly considered it as a normal way of life. Punishment was considered as a form of negative reinforcement used to guide and discipline children. However, it was noted that some parents take it to the extremes that some children starved for longer period resulting into malnutrition.

“I have been taking it as normal not to provide my children with all that they need as a way of punishment for laziness or bad manners. It is good that you have come and clarified; we used to punish stubborn children who do not want to work and also those who misbehave by denying them food. Now I know that it is a form of child rights abuse”, [Respondent in Kisojjo - Kibinge sub-county].

Children who do not live with their parents were said to be discriminated in the form of being over worked. They are given more pieces of work/assignments in a day to do as compared to other children in the same household. Many caretakers were “accused” of using such children as source of labor in the households. To them [caregivers] taking care of children is like giving favor to the children and their parents. The only unfortunate bit of it is that they over work children under their care and some mistreat them in several ways. One respondent had this to say:

“Children under the care of relatives are sometimes treated as secondary family members. They are most times not carried along when others go with their parents to shop, visit or attend functions. Even when they are taken to visits, their work is to tend to the care giver’s children. They are the ones who carry plates for the care giver’s children... such children are the last to report to school, last to be shopped for, last to be served, last to bath, last to eat, last to go to bed. What sort of love is this? How do you expect these children to grow happily without nursing emotions and thoughts of revenge”, an elder in Kiryassaaka-Kibinge.

3.5 MECHANISMS FOR PROMOTION OF CHILDREN RIGHTS AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY:

3.5.1 Mechanisms Availability at Family/Community Level for Handling Deviant Children:

The study explored into the availability of family and/ or community mechanisms for handling deviant children. A question was posed to respondents on their understanding of a deviant child. Varied responses were generated in describing who a deviant child is, **box 3.3**.

- A deviant child is that who goes outside the norms. For example, a child who disobeys elders, a child who doesn't want to go to school is a deviant.
- A deviant child is the one who engages into things that children are not supposed to do such as theft, engaging in sexual activities, spying, smoking and drinking.
- It's a child who society is rejecting because of bad behaviour. They are the ones that run away to town as street kids, those who rob from people.
- It is a child who doesn't listen. However much you talk, shout, cry; they will do what they want. They are spoilt and rebellious children.
- Deviant is derived from the word "deviate." Deviant children are therefore those children who move in the opposite direction. They are already "early criminals"

Box 3.3: Respondents understanding of a deviant child.

Source: Field Data

From the definitions presented in **box 3.3**, it is apparent that communities are aware of what a deviant child is. When asked if there were mechanisms for handling deviant children at family or community level, the response was as shown in **chart 3.11**.

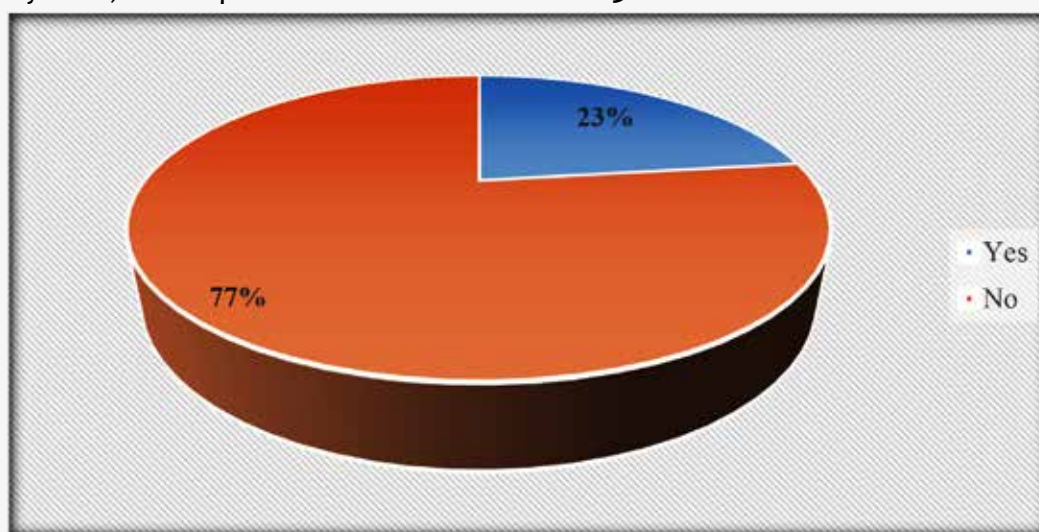


Chart 3.11: Availability of Mechanisms for Handling Deviant Children

Source: Field Data

N = 292

From **Chart 3.11**, a total of 77% respondents indicated that there were no mechanisms within the family or community set up to handle deviant children. The 23% who indicated that there were mechanisms for handling deviants at family/community level, the following were highlighted:

(a) Guidance and Counseling of Children:

Counseling children and guiding them on what to do and not to do was considered as a family related mechanism for dealing with deviant children. This also involves identifying the cause of

deviance, who the perpetrators are within the family and outside including identifying the effects of deviant behavior. By so doing, a corrective action could be done at family level. Counseling on the other hand was often provided by parents, relatives namely: Aunties, Uncles, Grandparents or even peers.

(b) Use of Council of Elders:

The traditional cultural system (the clan) has often been cited to be strong and effective in Buganda region of Uganda. In the event that counseling and guidance failed to bring about change in the character of the deviant, clan leaders could be brought on board. It was noted that when clan leaders are involved, they would often give their counsel and also warn the deviant child to desist from the acts committed and behaviors exhibited.

(c) Punishing a deviant:

Should the deviancy persist [no change in behavior of the child] then punishment was inevitable. This could be by caning, being ordered to do hard labor such as chopping or splitting firewood, digging ant hills under the watchful eye of an elder/parent.

“Caning by clan elders is always harsh. They beat the child as if they want to kill. Sometimes it makes you sympathize with the child”, Woman Elder – Butenga.

Punishing a deviant child was considered as number one option for managing children as one of the respondents had this to say:

“So long as it is not done to the extreme/severely, it is one of the best ways of correcting children and it is acceptable. If I have told a child to stop moving with bad behaved peers and he/she is not listening, I will lure him/her into the house, get my stick and cane him/her. I can also assign him/her some duties every time he is supposed to meet his peers to play”.

A little piece of cane will not kill, is considered the African way of managing children. Despite government policy on corporal punishment, canning is acceptable in most communities.

(d) Other parents were said to **threaten to curse the deviant** child if he or she did not change his/her behaviors. By threatening to curse, would scare a deviant and would compel a deviant to adjust his/her behavior. For fear of generational curses and bad omen the family would always pressurize the deviant child to drop such acts.

3.5.2 Platforms at Community Level for Handling Deviant Children:

In the event that the family failed to handle deviant children, the community at large would

Such deviant children are taken to the Local Councils first. Every Local Council at all levels have a Secretary for Children Affairs. In the event that the case is beyond one person, the LCs can constitute themselves into a village court to listen to the case. If its theft, the child can be punished. Sometimes even the parents of the deviant child are also punished if the court finds them to have been negligent and irresponsible. LC member, Buyoga.

- If it is a serious case such as defilement, sometimes the two families concerned can stealthily settle the matter between themselves either by fining the boy, making him pay some bride price or the girl is sent to live with the boy. However, some enlightened families will report the deviant child (defiler boy) to Police and the boy faces prosecution.
- Some parents report such cases to the CDO. It is only unfortunate that very few people know that CDOs can be alternative reporting line. In the discussions that ensued during FGDs, women seemed more knowledgeable about the existence of probation office / community development office than men.
- Women's view was that they normally take such cases of child abuse to Child Centred Organization such as MADD0, Kitovu Mobile, World Vision and FIDA. Their view is that such organizations have their own ways of managing deviant children.
- In extreme cases where a child disturbs the parents so much in that "today he has stolen, tomorrow he is assaulting and molesting young girls. The other day he is caught smoking enjaga (marijuana), he picks someone's boda boda without permission and goes with it, the only solution is to chase him away, retorted one of the respondents in

come in to try and handle the deviant. The responses were that; such that; **Box 3.4:**

Box 3.4: Platforms at Community Level for Handling Deviant Children

Source: Field Data

3.5.3 Reporting Lines for Violation of Children Rights:

For child abuse to be meaningfully addressed and curtailed there should be an effective and accessible reporting mechanism that links the victims to the judicial system and any other support processes. The study sought to identify the existing platforms /mechanisms/reporting lines being used to handle cases of child abuse, **Chart, 3.12.**

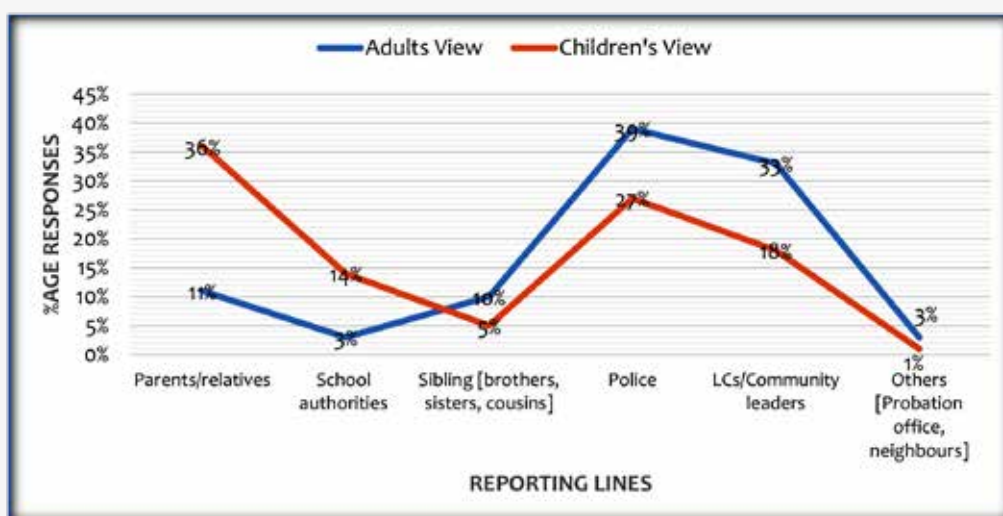


Chart 3.12: Reporting Lines for Violation of Children RightsSource: **Field data****N = 292**

From **chart 3.12**, children confide most of their issues/cases of violation of their rights to their parents, 36%. Adults/parents on the other hand have the Police as their preferred No.1 choice [39%]. Overall the Police and Community leadership [LCs, Sub-county leaders] stand as the main lines for reporting of cases of violation of children rights accounting for 72% of responses from adults/parents. Parents and the Police were cited by children as the main reporting lines for cases of violation of their rights, accounting for 63% of the total responses on reporting lines. The least reporting line cited by both adults and children was others [3%] for adults/ parents and [1%] for children. Despite the accusations made over teachers defiling children and subjecting them into corporal punishment, this study finds school authorities as relatively reliable reporting line by children on matters pertaining to violation of their rights. This means that School set up is still trusted by children in case they had personal issues/concerns. School system can constitute an important avenue for advocacy of children rights. Despite its importance in resolving family matters the role of Probation office remains unpopular as it was placed among the category of others. There is need to popularize the services offered by the Probation office in the district as it acts a direct link between the community and other systems and processes like the Police, the Judiciary or other supporting bodies such as NGOs.

This baseline also established that with support from DREAMS and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, a toll free child helpline “Sauti 116” had been installed in the district for the children and communities to report cases of child abuse. Unfortunately, whereas the equipment such as computers and telephone lines were in place, the line was nonfunctional because of the district’s inability to pay for internet and airtime subscriptions.

3.5.4 Effectiveness of Reporting Lines in Resolving Cases of Child Abuse:

Children’s views were sought to establish the effectiveness of preferred reporting lines resolving cases of violation of children rights, **chart 3.13**.

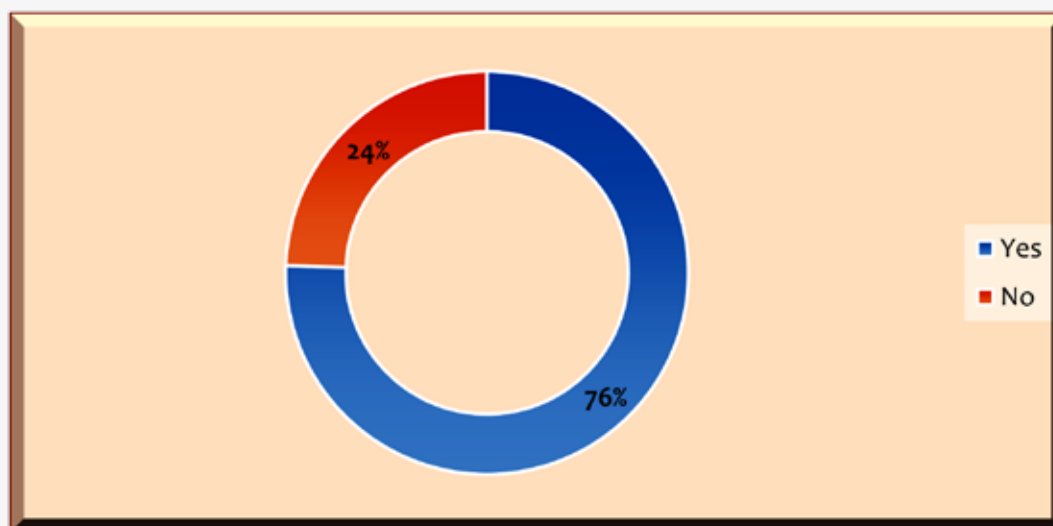
**Chart 3.13: The Effectiveness of Reporting Lines in Resolving Cases of Child Abuse**Source: **Field Data****N = 292**

Chart 3.13, highlights that 76% of the children acknowledged that their reporting lines addressed/helped fix/resolve their issues, an indication of effectiveness. FGD with adults confirmed this by alluding to the fact that, whenever children report their concerns to the parents, such parents often acted swiftly in trying to find justice. A similar account was given for School authorities

who were said to act expeditiously such that they would not be held responsible for failures. This was not the case for the Police who were accused of corruption and being slow in action giving a lame excuse of “we are still investigating the matter”. Parent’s explanation was that sometimes when they report such cases of violation of children rights to Police, the Police can act very fast depending on the gravity of the case/ issue and the caliber of person who has reported matter or the accused.

... sometimes, they act to support a very poor person who has a grievance against a richer one. Sometimes it is vice versa depending on who “facilitates” them, reported one of the respondents from Butenga.

3.5.5 The Effectiveness of Existing laws/Policies in Addressing Child Abuse:

An assessment was made on respondent’s awareness of existing laws and policies on children rights and their effectiveness in addressing cases of child abuse, **chart 3.14:**

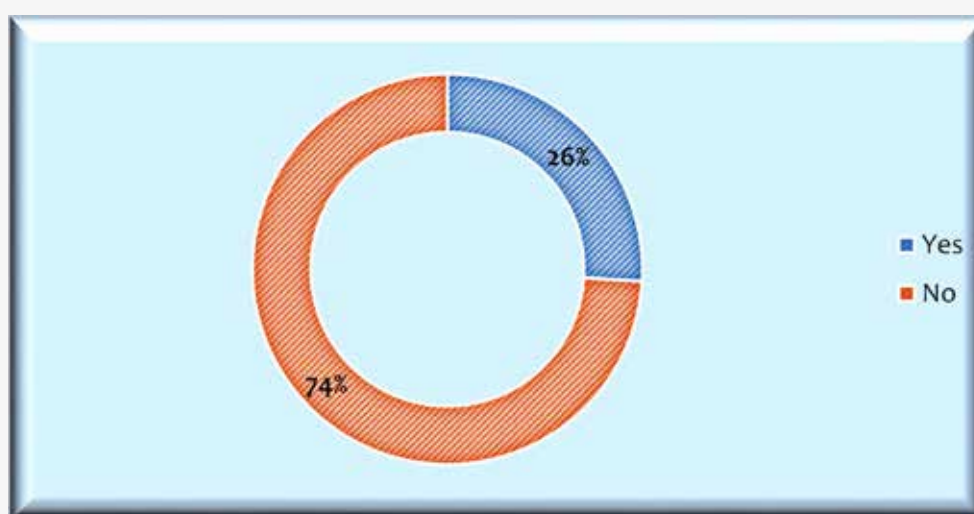


Chart 3.14: Respondents Awareness of Laws/Policies on Child Rights

Source: Field Data

N = 292

A large number of respondents, 74% had no knowledgeable of existence of laws and policies on children rights. The 26% who were aware of the laws and policies were mainly Local Council leaders, religious leaders and/or civil servants, a group exposed to child rights education. Findings from this baseline survey also affirm that Uganda has a robust legal and policy framework on which a sound child protection system can be built. It was noted that Uganda as a country had ratified and domesticated most of the key international child protection instruments through the enactment of several child protection laws and policies.

Respondents were asked to identify the different laws and policies on children rights and the following were identified:

- Children's Act 1997 meant to reform and collate the laws relating to children; provides for care and protection and maintenance of children; provides local authority support for children; establishes "the family" and children's courts and also makes provisions for children charged with offences and other related concerns.
- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 which recognizes the rights of the child and specifically provides for children rights namely: the right to health, right to education and right to protection from exploitation.
- Domestic Violence Act 2010.
- Education Act 2008.
- The Birth and Death Registration Act.
- National Council of Children Act 1996.

Source: **Field Data**

Interview with a Child Protection Specialist has it that:

"Everything is in place; be it the laws, policies and institutions for child protection. The major challenge remains with implementation of laws and policies for child protection. This has encouraged continued violation of children rights in spite of the existing legal and policy frameworks.

As far as institutional frameworks are concerned, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social was identified as the apex institution with the mandate to manage child protection issues in the country. Within the Ministry is the department of Youth and children Affairs that is spread across the country through the district probation Office. Other than the ministry of gender, Labor and Social Affairs, there are other ministries such as Ministry of Justice, Internal Affairs, Education and Sports and ministry of health with specific mandates on child protection issues. At the district level, it was noted that the mandate for child protection is vested with the Community Based Services Department and particularly in the Probation office. Also listed were institutions like the different levels of Local Councils with Secretary for Children Affairs being Vice Chairperson in every Local Council. Some NGOs like Kitovu Mobile, Save the Children, Rakai Health Sciences and some special programs like DREAMS were also mentioned as having a hand in child protection issues.

The array of Departments and Ministries involved in child protection at local, sub national and national level indicate the need for coordination if effective child protection services are to be delivered. Unfortunately, despite the numerous coordination mechanisms in place, some of which are cross-sectoral in nature, current coordination efforts are not delivering concrete outcomes for children. Additionally, human resource and logistical challenges constrain the ability of key institutions, both at the national and district level, to play their statutory responsibilities.

It was further noted that though the laws, policies and institutions to address child abuse are in place, the vice continues unabated. Explanations were given that the institutions are not adequately funded which may also open way for corruption or other under hand processes as a means to an end if justice is to be sought. Situations were cited of cases over custody of children in case parents have had a disagreement. It was alleged that a parent who had the means to oil (bribe) the system would end up taking custody of the child assuming the two parties/parents were fighting over it. It was also stated that over the same issue of custody of a child, one could bribe his/ her way to reject taking care of a child in the pretext that the environment he/ she is living in is not conducive for child care. In this respect one of the Local Council officials had this to say:

“I was so surprised when a rich man with so many houses and businesses refused to take care of a child he sired. He bribed the process and the poor girl had nothing to do other than coming to stay here deep in the village with very poor grandparents. Where is justice in this case?”

Discussions on this matter also revealed that although the Community Based Department of the district has tried a lot in addressing issues of child abuse, the department was constrained with funding. Because of lack of funding, the team in the department was unable to timely follow up some abuse cases because of lack of means of transport.

*“Sometimes you feel you should do something to help save this child, but even raising three [3] litres of fuel becomes a challenge. By the time you raise the fuel, two or three days after, the culprit may have disappeared, **Child Protection Specialist - Butenga***

What is evident is that there is a robust array of laws, policies and institutions in place to address case of violation of children rights. What is lacking is facilitation and coordination for them to become effective.

3.5.6 Organizations Dealing with Children Rights in Bukomansimbi:

The existence of child focused programs lay a good foundation for RACOBABO to launch and contribute to efforts in place dealing with violation of children rights. The study sought to identify any existing programs by State actors and Non-state actors within Bukomansimbi district and the following actors and programs/ projects were identified:

Table 3.6: Child Rights Organizations and Programmes.

Actor	Interventions/ actions
Non State Actors	
Rakai Health Sciences.	Provision of HIV/AIDS services including HIV testing, ART, Safe Medical Male Circumcision, psychosocial support, referral, PMTCT, EID
DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) Programs.	HIV/AIDS prevention among adolescent girls and young women including HIV testing, enrolling on ART Vocational training for young girls and women Training of psychosocial peer supporters and provision of psychosocial support and counselling OVC programs Access to provision of Post violence care Access to family planning services
Kitovu Mobile	Farmer Field schools to provide vocational training to children. Training covers trades such as; preparation of coffee seedling, passion fruit growing, rabbit rearing,
CARITAS/MADDO (Masaka Diocese Development Organization).	Promotion of organic farming for OVC and training of teachers in Human rights/children's rights
BACHI.	Sensitizing communities on children's rights; provision of HIV testing services and psycho-social support.
Secure Link.	Counseling and psycho-social support and provision of temporary shelter to victims of SGBV.
State Actors	

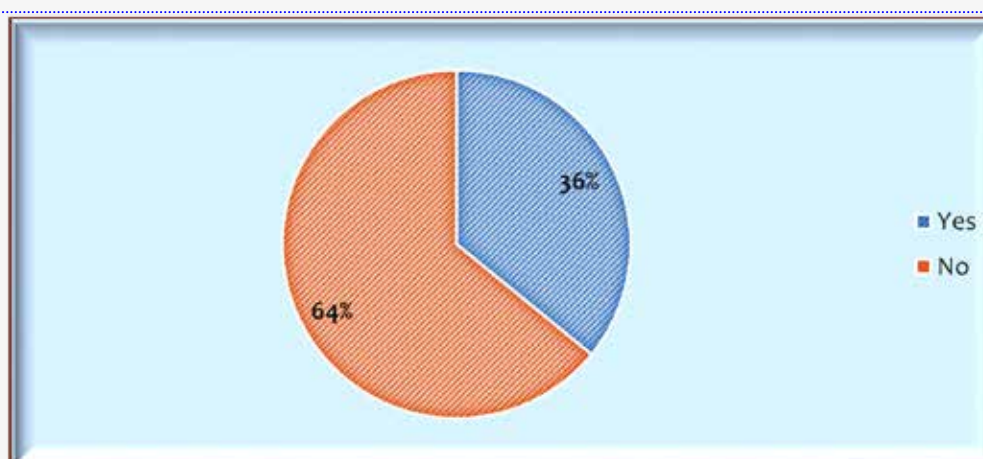
District Community Development Office (Probation Office).	Handles issues of women and children namely: domestic violence, child neglect, child abuse and facilitates the processes for adoption and fostering of children. Links people in need to judicial services. Run a toll-free hotline called “Sauti 116” for reporting child abuse (though was down during the survey because of inability to pay internet costs).
Police.	Architects of law and order for all including children. It is the first place of choice to report issues of violence against children namely: child sacrifice, defilement, sexual assault, battering and severe beating of children, child molestation.
District Education Department.	Responsible for ensuring that all children of school going age are at school.
District Health Office.	Provision of child friendly health services including children and adolescent corners in the health facilities, HIV counseling and testing, provision of ART services to all including children. Providing health education to all people including children
Uganda Human Rights Commission.	Has conducted sensitization of local leaders and also teachers on human rights, legal aid, access to justice etc. Have helped and trained village para legal officers who help with basics on explaining the laws, roles and responsibilities of both parents and children.

Source: **Field Data**

3.5.7 The Role of Child Rights Clubs in Schools:

Many Civil society actors/NGOs have initiated school-based programs aimed at increasing awareness on children rights and also catalyzing action in Schools so that children rights are respected, promoted and protected within School environment. Such school-based actions include; formation of child rights clubs that provide education through play, drama, songs, posters, debate. Despite Covid19 lockdown that has kept children out of school for more than 6 months, children were asked if they are aware of child rights clubs in their schools. The responses are presented in, **chart, 3.15.**

Chart 3.15: Awareness of the Existence of Human Rights Clubs in Schools [Children's View]



Source: **Field Data**

N = 87

A large proportion of respondents [children] interviewed shows that most [64%] children had not heard of Human Rights clubs in their schools. Lack of knowledge of the existence of human rights clubs in schools was explained by a government official:

“We lack NGOs in this district. It is NGOs that are strong in pushing for such programs in schools. If NGOs are available, they would train teachers in child rights issues and the teachers would cascade it downwards by sensitizing and educating children on issues of children rights and also the need to form human rights clubs at school, [Parent in Butenga].

Further engagement with children who were aware of the existence of human rights clubs in schools identified the following as the functions of human rights clubs, **box 3.6**.

- Educating children on child rights.
- Receiving cases of child abuse at school.
- Speaking/ advocating for child rights.
- Training girls to protect themselves from bullies.

Source: **Field Data**.

Based on the effectiveness of such clubs in handling issues affecting children rights one of the respondents [child] during interviews had this to say;

“The leadership of human rights club in our school told the Head teacher and the teachers that we are not getting enough food. As a result, they started serving us with big pieces of posho”.

In schools where they exist, Human rights clubs attempt to push for realization of children rights. Their effectiveness however, depends so much on the responsiveness of school authorities to children rights.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Drawing from the findings, this baseline study reveals that the magnitude of violation of children rights in Bukomansimbi district is high, not necessarily because people are ignorant of children rights but because of cultural attributes. The categories of children most affected vary depending on the forms of abuse. For example, teenage girls have continued to face the problem of defilement and thus teenage pregnancies. Orphaned children or those whose parents have continued to face the wrath of their relatives/caregivers and step parents. Poverty has been named as one of the main factors responsible for violation of children rights as parents struggle to provide their children with basic needs and thus denying children access to adequate/appropriate health care services, access to education, food and shelter. It is poverty that partly compels parents to engage in hard labor to fend for the families. While attempts have been put in place to curb the problem of child rights violations, the problem of child abuse continues raging unabated. This calls for concerted efforts by both state and non-state actors working with the local communities to develop robust approaches and strategies to promote children rights.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTING CHILDREN RIGHTS:

Respondents [adults and children] were asked to make recommendations for promotion of children rights and reduce case of child abuse. A number of responses were generated.

1. **Mobilizing Communities for Change:**

Community mobilization provides an essential support framework for violence prevention programs and engages boys/men, women/ girls, community leaders and the broader community in addressing social norms that increase child abuse and rights violations. Mobilizing communities for change aims to educate/sensitize communities (men, women, boys and girls) on children's rights, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders; mobilizing them to keep all children free and safe from violence. Mobilizing communities for change enables communities to provide accurate information, provide referrals to health centers for services, building prevention skills including GBV among large numbers of young people in a community. This approach considers using the family as a focal point/ unit of entry of RACOBABO interventions aimed at ending violence against children and GBV at large since violation of children rights is highest at family level. A family focused approach is advised.

2. **Strengthen referral system**

The referral system that links the families/ communities with support and care services needs to be developed and/ or strengthened where it exists. This will go a long way in linking families to services such as probation, police children and family unit, the health and education (school) system and any other community based support system for the wellbeing and care of children.

3. **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Education:**

Supporting adolescent sexual and reproductive health education both for in and out of school can address gender and power relations that are associated with improved behavioral outcomes, including significantly lowering the rate of HIV infection. It can reduce cases of child abuse and unintended pregnancies, decreases both victimization and perpetration of violence and increases the levels of empowerment among children and community members. RACOBABO can support a process of mapping all child actors in the district and development a complete referral system.

4. **Awareness Raising Program for Parents/Caregivers:**

RACOBABO should come up with parents/caregivers' programs that increase their knowledge, skills, and comfort in talking to their children about their rights and responsibilities, sexual health and to monitor their children's activities. Such interventions have the promise in changing risky sexual behavioral patterns among young people, including delayed sexual debut, use of condom and decreased exposure to negative outcomes such as violence against children and child abuse.

5. **Popularizing the use of Students Councils in Schools:**

RACOBABO should work with teachers and schools to promote alternative ways of disciplining a child built on mutual respect and participation. Schools should be encouraged to set up children's councils to ensure effective and appropriate process of disciplining a child. RACOBABO can also work with schools, local government officials and local communities to monitor and address other forms of violence in schools, such as sexual abuse and bullying. It could also involve strengthening the SMCs and PTAs in child protection.

6. Joint Advocacy with other Actors to Promote Children Rights:

To end violence against children in Bukomansimbi district or Uganda as a country, there must be concerted efforts by different actors to promote respect of children rights. Such efforts should reinforce and support efforts by other actors in eliminating bureaucracy and duplication of services. Joining forces together would take the context of ensuring that different child rights actors' network and work together to end violation of children rights. This can be done by creating platforms for information sharing and joint interventions.

7. Strengthening Laws and Policies on Children Rights:

There is need for RAOBAO to develop advocacy program for strengthening laws and policies on children rights. Effective child protection needs laws and policies that bring about change. Uganda has taken steps in this by coming up with national strategy to end violence against children in school, on child marriage, corporal punishment and other forms of abuse. Unfortunately, these laws are not enforced. Many people including government officials are unaware of them and perpetrators often go unpunished. RAOBAO should partner with other child rights organizations to advocate for greater resourcing of the district and the country at large to implement and enforce the existing legal frameworks.

8. Economic Empowerment of Households:

Poverty was identified as one of the main causes and disposing factors for child abuse in Bukomansimbi district. Poverty was viewed from the point of lack of income/ money, lack of basic needs and deprivation of needs. RAOBAO should come up with Programs that empower child care givers economically so as to build their capacity to provide: health care, education, clothing and shelter. The empowerment program could take the form of skilling of care givers in income generating activities, access to market, access to capital and inputs.

9. Strengthening Hotlines and Opening up Centers for Reporting:

There exists a 24-hour program called "Sauti 116" a toll-free national child help hotline at the District for reporting cases of child abuse. Given the allegation that the Police is sometimes inaccessible by some people for fear of arrest, strengthening hotlines and opening up centers where people can easily reach and report without fear of victimization is recommended. Such centers could be located in schools, clinics/ health facilities or even homes of local leaders.

10. Strengthening the District Community Services Department and Probation Office:

The District Community Services department and District Probation office being central and key in management of children affairs, RAOBAO could support these offices with means of transport to facilitate their work in handling cases of violation of children rights. Other areas of support for these offices could be in the form of equipment such as computers for management of information in line with promotion and protection of children rights.

11. Education Program Targeting the Girl Child:

For the reason that female children are more vulnerable to school dropout than boys, RAOBAO could strategically plan for an education package/program to support completion of primary education for girls and progression to secondary education. Education packages are an effective intervention mechanism for keeping girls in school and are correlated with reduced risky sexual behaviors, lower teenage pregnancy rates,

lower HIV prevalence, reduced likelihood of early marriage, decreased school dropout rates and other negative outcomes among female adolescents.

12. Investing in Child-Friendly Spaces:

RACOBABO may invest in running Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) which provide children with safe places to play, learn and socialize with other children/ friends, under the supervision of specialist caregivers. Through CFSs, children can also access other services such as mental health and psycho-social support. RACOBABO can deploy a team of caseworkers who identify the most vulnerable children in the community and ensure they get the support they need. This category of children are those who live alone or are separated from their parents, orphans, children with disabilities or those in need of counseling services/ psycho-social support.

13. Strengthening Child Protection Systems:

An effective and well-funded local child protection system that links to the national one is vital to ensure that violence against children is prevented in Bukomansimbi. The current system is fragmented and weak. The referral system is poorly coordinated, services for survivors are scarce, children are not empowered to speak out and report abuse and traditional beliefs often perpetuate certain forms of violence. Most cases of violation of children rights are not reported, and only 32% of those reported result in arrests. There is a need to support a District based child protection mechanism that links the victims to the different service providers.

6.0 PROPOSED PROJECT AREAS:

Strengthening Partnership for Citizen Engagement in Elimination of all Form of Child Abuse (SPEECA) Project

Strengthening Partnership for Elimination of all Form Of Child Abuse (SPECA) Project

The point here is that the elimination of forms of child abuse is dependent on partnerships with various stakeholders namely: the oppressed, the perpetrator and likeminded partners namely: the local community; the state/duty bearers/LG; CSOs and other development partners including the oppressed [children].

Impact	Impact indicator 1A
A society in which children enjoy full rights.	Evidence of positive response (policy and practice) towards elimination of forms of child abuse.
	Impact indicator 1B Proportion of citizens satisfied with state of respect of children rights.
Outcome 1	Outcome indicator 1A
Improved implementation of human rights laws, policies and recommendations by government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) towards promotion of children rights.	Percentage of stakeholders' satisfied with implementation/ application of laws and policies on elimination of child abuse.
	Outcome indicator 1B Number of provisions in selected laws and policies implemented by LG, child rights protection agencies and local community as a result of RACOBABO's interventions.
	Outcome indicator 1C Number of recommendations implemented by District LG and community as a result of RACOBABO's interventions.
Outcome 2	Outcome indicator 2A
Increased citizen voices and input on issues of violation of children rights.	Number of joint engagements by partners on children rights violations.
	Outcome indicator 2B Number of engagement spaces created as a result of RACOBABO and partner CSO advocacy.

7.0 INSTRUMENTS

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS/CARE GIVERS/LOCAL COMMUNITY:

Dear respondent, I am, a consultant with CPRCE, contracted by RACOBABO to conduct baseline survey on child rights abuse in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge; Bukomansimbi district. This study is aimed at establishing and understanding the magnitude of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi with deep insight into the root causes; incidence and prevalence of child rights abuses; mechanisms in place for prevention and protection of children; level of accessibility and thereafter make relevant - sustainable recommendations to RACOBABO for their advocacy programme in curbing the vice. You have been purposively selected to participate in this study. Feel free to express yourself and answer the questions at liberty. I also wish to affirm that the information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Names will not be mentioned anywhere in the report. Thank you.

Tick ✓ this box as a way of consent.

Sign here.....

1.0 [A] PARTICULARS OF RESPONDENTS:

1.	Age (How old/years).	<20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51+
2.	Gender/Sex.	Male	Female			
3.	Tribe.					
4.	Religion.					
5.	Level of education.	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	
6.	Marital status.	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	C o - habiting
7.	Village/ Parish/sub-county.					
8.	Main Occupation.					
9.	Disability status.					
11.	Household size [persons].					
12.	How many are children?					
13.	Average household income.					

1.0 PREVALENCE OF CHILD RIGHTS ABUSE IN BUKOMANSIMBI DISTRICT.

- 1.1 Are you aware of “children rights”? Yes No
- 1.2 If yes, what was the source of information?
- 1.3 Have you heard of/witnessed any case [s] of violation/abuse of children rights in your community in the last 1 month/ in your life time? Yes No
- 1.4 If yes, which of the following scenarios have you seen children go through? Refer to table below.

	Forms of Child Abuse	Yes	No	Not sure
a	Defiled/ raped.			
b	Forced into marriage.			
c	Forced to work by parents or to raise own money for survival.			
d	Battered (beaten severely and heavily).			
e	Chased away from home.			
f	Sent to live with relatives or other people.			
g	Children given for adoption by others within and outside Uganda.			
h	Dumped/ thrown into garbage bins, road side, baby/ children's homes.			
i	Parents mistreating children with disabilities.			
j	Parents leave children home alone/no helper as they go to work.			
k	Children mistreated by step-parents			
l	Relatives mistreat children living with them.			
m	Denied education or forced to drop out of school.			
n	Children not given medical care.			
o	Denied food/forced to find what to eat.			
p	Children are battered by own/foster parents/relatives			
q	Children run away from home into the streets/ orphanages.			
r	Children from streets are not accepted back in the community.			
s	Children have been left to engage in drinking, discos, drug abuse etc.			
t	Children denied inheritance by relatives of the deceased.			
v	Others (specify)			

- 1.5 What are the most common forms of child abuse in your community?
- 1.6 In your view, how many children could have experienced any form of rights violation/ abuse in the last one month/in your life time?
- 1.7 Who are the main perpetrators of [categories of people committing] child abuse in your community?
- 1.8 What category of children are mostly abused [in terms of: Age; gender/sex; education; tribe etc], refer to table below:

Age (years)	0-5	6-10	11-15	16+	
Sex	Male		Female		
Education	School going		Out of school		
Orphaned/ not	Orphaned		Not orphaned		
Tribe	Muganda		Muyankole		Others (specify
Economic status	Poor families		Middle income		Rich families
Belonging	Those with own parents		With foster parents/homes		Other (specify)

3.0 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD ABUSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

3.1 Are there any children (0-18) who lived with you in the last 3 years and have since left?

3.2 If yes, how many?

3.3 What was the reason for their departure/ or why are they no longer with you?

3.4 Has any of your children worked for money in the last one month?

3.5 If yes, what was the driving factor/reason?

3.6 What form of work did s/he do/engage in?

3.7 How much was s/he paid for the work done?

3.8 What challenges do children who are not living with their parents face?

3.9 What are the causes of/factors responsible for child abuse in your community?

1.0 CURRENT MECHANISMS IN PLACE BY THE COMMUNITIES TOWARDS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY BY CHILDREN:

1.1 What mechanisms do you have in place in your family for handling deviant children?

1.2 If you do not have, in the event you have a deviant child [who misbehaves], how do you deal with such situations?

1.3 Are there any mechanisms in your clan/community for handling deviant children [those who misbehave]?

1.4 If yes, name them.

1.5 If not, what happens to such children?

1.6 Are there any mechanisms in your clan/community for handling parents who have neglected their children [no education, medical care, food etc]?

1.7 Are there any laws/ policies in your community for addressing cases of child abuse/ ensuring child care and protection?

1.8 If yes, name them.

1.9 In what ways have such policies/laws/mechanisms been able to address cases of violation of children rights/child abuse?

1.10 What suggestions can you make to improve the effectiveness of such laws/policies / mechanisms?

1.11 In the event a child is abused [rights violated] where do they report their concerns to?

1.12 Do children receive justice/help after reporting such abuses?

1.13 If yes, what are some of the cases/examples you can provide?

1.14 Are there any projects/programs by any organization or government that are currently handling matters of child abuse and neglect?

1.15 If yes, who/what organization is doing that?

1.16 What exactly are they doing?

1.17 Have you as an individual or family taken any action to help children who are neglect/abused by their parents/care givers/community?

1.18 If yes, tick [in the table below] the appropriate action you have ever taken.

		Tick all the appropriate ✓
a	Report to [a] police [b] LC, [c] head teacher, [d] parent etc.	
b	Confronted the abuser/ perpetrator.	
c	Provided immediate help to the child [in the form of?]	
d	Comforted the child.	
e	Kept quiet/ did nothing [why?].	
f	Others (specify)	

1.19 If no, why?

RELEVANT AND SUSTAINABLE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO THE IDENTIFIED CHILD RIGHTS ABUSES:

- Have there been any attempts by parents/local leaders to bring back and re-settle in the community children who ran away from home to the street/orphanages?
- If no, what strategies do you suggest for resettling such children back to their communities?
- In your view what can be done to reduce/put to an end the problem of child abuse in Bukomasimbi district?

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

Dear respondent, I am, a consultant with CPRCE, contracted by RACOBABO to conduct baseline survey on child rights abuses in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge; Bukomansimbi district. This study is aimed at establishing and understanding the magnitude of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi with deep insight into the root causes; incidence and prevalence of child rights abuses; mechanisms in place for prevention and protection of children; level of accessibility and thereafter make relevant - sustainable recommendations to RACOBABO for their advocacy programme in curbing the vice. You have been purposively selected to participate in this study. Feel free to express yourself and answer the questions at liberty. I also wish to affirm that the information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Names will not be mentioned anywhere in the report. Thank you.

Tick ✓ this box as a way of consent.

Sign/Parent/Care giver

1.0 [A] PARTICULARS OF RESPONDENTS:

	Variable	Options			
a	Age				
b	Sex/ gender	Male	Female		
c	Tribe/ ethnicity				
d	Schooling	Yes	No		
e	Level of education	None	Primary	Secondary	
f	Parish/ village				
g	Religious affiliation				
h	Disability status	Able	Disabled		
i	Child status	Has parents	Orphaned	Fostered/ adopted	Independent
j	Living status	With parents	With relatives	With non-relative	Own

1.0 PREVALENCE OF CHILD RIGHTS ABUSES IN BUKOMANSIMBI DISTRICT.

1.1 Are you aware that you have rights? Yes No

1.2 Which of the following challenges have you experience as a child in the last 1 month/life time?

a	Forms of Child Abuses	Yes	No
b	Not given food at home.		
c	Not sent to school [parent refused to pay school fees].		
d	Dropped out of school.		
e	Not bought for clothes.		
f	Not treated when fall sick.		
g	Forced to work by parents or to raise own money for survival.		
h	Battered (beaten severely and heavily).		
i	Defiled/raped by relative/peers/unknown people.		
j	Forced into marriage by parents.		
k	Chased away from home.		
l	Sent to live with relatives or other people.		

m	Given out for adoption by others within and outside Uganda.		
n	Abandoned because of disability.		
o	Left home alone/no helper as parents go to work.		
p	Mistreated by step-parents/relatives/care givers		
q	Ran away from home to streets/orphanages.		
r	Not accepted in community because was once in the streets.		
s	Engaged in drinking, discos, loitering around etc.		
t	Denied inheritance by relatives of your parents.		
u	No privacy		
v	Others (specify)		

1.3 Who are the people abusing your rights?

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD ABUSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

What do you think is the reason/factors behind/cause of child abuse in your family/ community/ why you are facing such challenges?

MECHANISMS IN PLACE TOWARDS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN RIGHTS AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY LEVELS TO CHILDREN:

As a child do you have anywhere/office/person to go to/report in case your rights are violated/ abused? Yes No

If yes, where do you go to report your case/issue? Explain.

Places where report cases	Tick all the appropriate ✓
Parents/relatives	
Police	
LCs	
Head teacher	
Religious leader	
Friend	
No where	

- Can any child access such offices/persons? Yes No
- Are children helped/assisted when they report their matters to such offices/persons?
Yes No
- If yes, in what ways?

Ways in which children are assisted	Tick all the appropriate ✓
Perpetuators are reprimanded/punished	
Perpetuators are counselled	
Children are re-united with their care givers/ parents	
Cases are recorded and forwarded to higher authorities	
No help is provided	

- If no, why/what happens? Explain
- What would you do if you saw or heard that one of your friends or another child was abused at home or in the community?

Ways in which children are assisted	Tick all the appropriate v
Confront the abuser.	
Report the matter to Police/LC, clan head, Head teacher etc.	
Comfort/counsel the abused.	
Advice to leave home or community and go to streets.	
Any other, specify.....	

Have you ever heard of child rights clubs Yes No

If yes, are you a member? Yes No

If yes, what services do the child rights clubs offer to you?

Services Obtained from child rights clubs	Tick all the appropriate v
Educate us about our rights.	
Receive case of child abuse.	
Train us how to protect our rights.	
Advocate for our rights.	
Any other, specify.....	

Is there any organization/person dealing with children rights issues in your community?
 Yes No

If yes, what do they do exactly?

Services obtained from persons/organizations dealing with children rights issues	Tick all the appropriate v
Educate us about our rights.	
Receive case of child abuse.	
Train us how to protect our rights.	
Advocate for our rights.	
Provide us with: (a) Shelter, (b) Education services, (c) Health services, (d) Food items,	
Any other, specify.....	

RELEVANT AND SUSTAINABLE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO THE IDENTIFIED CHILD RIGHTS ABUSES:

Do you think it is possible to bring back children who have run away from home eg street children to their families? Yes No

If yes, what should be done to bring these children back home?

What should be done to bring children back home	Tick all the appropriate v
Counselling children	
Giving them assurance that they will be protected.	
Providing them with basic needs.	
Reprimanding parents/perpetuators of child abuse.	
Creating a home for children who have run away from home.	
Any other, specify.....	

If no, why do you think that way?

.....

In your view what should be done to reduce cases of child violation/abuse in your community?

.....

INTERVIEW GUIDE/QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DISTRICT LEADERS [RDC, DPC, CAO, DHO, CDO, Community Services Officer, LCS [1-5]; Police – Child Protection Dep’t...];

Dear respondent, I am, a consultant with CPRCE, contracted by RACOBABO to conduct baseline survey on child rights abuses in the sub counties of Butenga and Kibinge; Bukomansimbi district. This study is aimed at establishing and understanding the magnitude of child rights abuses in Bukomansimbi with deep insight into the root causes; incidence and prevalence of child rights abuses; mechanisms in place for prevention and protection of children; level of accessibility and thereafter make relevant - sustainable recommendations to RACOBABO for their advocacy programme in curbing the vice. You have been purposively selected to participate in this study. Feel free to express yourself and answer the questions at liberty. I also wish to affirm that the information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Names will not be mentioned anywhere in the report. Thank you.

Tick v this box as a way of consent.

Sign here.....

1.0 [A] PARTICULARS OF RESPONDENTS:

1.	Gender/Sex.	Male	Female		
2.	Level of education.	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
3.	Village/ Parish/sub-county.				
4.	Title/Position.				

2.0 PREVALENCE OF CHILD RIGHTS ABUSE IN BUKOMANSIMBI DISTRICT.

2.1 Have you heard of/witnessed any case [s] of violation/abuse of children rights in your community in the last 1 – 3 month? Yes No

1.2 If yes, which of the following scenarios have you seen children go through? Refer to table below.

	Forms of Child Abuse	Yes	No	N o t sure
a	Defiled/ raped.			
b	Forced into marriage.			
c	Forced to work by parents or to raise own money for survival.			
d	Battered (beaten severely and heavily).			
e	Chased away from home.			
f	Sent to live with relatives or other people.			
g	Children given for adoption by others within and outside Uganda.			
h	Dumped/ thrown into garbage bins, road side, baby/ children's homes.			
i	Parents abandon children with disabilities.			
j	Parents leave children home alone/no helper as they go to work.			
k	Children mistreated by step-parents			
l	Relatives mistreat children living with them.			
m	Denied education or forced to drop out of school.			
n	Children denied treatment (even when the situation was worse).			
o	Denied food/forced to find what to eat.			
p	Children are battered by own/foster parents/relatives			
q	Children run away from home into the streets/orphanages.			
r	Children from streets are not accepted back in the community.			
s	Children have been left to engage in drinking, discos, etc.			
t	Children denied inheritance by relatives of the deceased.			
u	Children are left alone to find what to eat.			
v	Others (specify)			

1.3 What are the most common forms of child abuse in your community?

1.4 What have been the trends of child abuse [are the cases increasing] in this community in the last 1 year?

1.5 In your view, how many children could have experienced violation/abuse of their rights in the last 1 – 3 months?

1.6 Who are the main perpetrators of [people committing] child abuse in this community?

1.7 What category of children are mostly abused [in terms of: Age; gender/sex; education; tribe etc], refer to table below:

Age (years)	0-5	6-10	11-15	16+
Sex	Male		Female	
Education	School going		Out of school	
Orphaned/ not	Orphaned		Not orphaned	
Tribe	Muganda		Muyankole	Others (specify)
Economic status	Poor families		Middle income	Rich families
Belonging	Those with own parents		With foster parents/ homes	Other (specify)

3.0 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD ABUSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

3.1 What are the main causes of/factors responsible for child abuse in your community?

4.0 CURRENT MECHANISMS IN PLACE BY THE COMMUNITIES TOWARDS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY TO CHILDREN:

Are there any mechanisms at family/community level for resolving conflicts and or handling parents who have neglected their children? Yes No

4.1 If yes, name them.

4.2 If no, how do families/community members resolve their conflicts?

4.3 How effective have such mechanisms been in addressing issues of violation of children rights?

4.4 What suggestions can you make to improve the effectiveness of such mechanisms, laws/policies/?

4.5 Are there places where children report their grievances once their rights have been violated? Yes No

4.6 If yes, do children receive justice/help from such places/offices [name some of the cases/examples]? Yes No

Are there any projects/programs by any organization or government that are currently handling matters of child abuse and neglect? Yes No

4.7 If yes, who/what organization [s] is/are doing that?

4.8 What exactly are they doing?

Have you as an officer/leader taken any action to help children who are neglect/abused by their parents/ care givers/community? Yes No

4.9 If yes, tick [in the table below] the appropriate action you have ever taken.

	Appropriate Action you have ever taken	Tick all the appropriate ✓
a	Report to [a] police [b] LC, [c] head teacher, [d] parent etc.	
b	Confronted the abuser/ perpetrator.	
c	Provided immediate help to the child [in the form of?]	
d	Comforted the child.	
e	Kept quiet/ did nothing [why?].	
f	Others (specify)	

4.10 If no, why?

5.0 RELEVANT AND SUSTAINABLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS CHILD RIGHTS ABUSE:

- 5.1 Have there been any attempts by parents/local leaders to bring back and re-settle in the community children who ran away from home to the street/orphanages?
- 5.2 If no, what strategies do you suggest for resettling such children back to their communities?
- 5.3 In your view what can be done to reduce/put to an end the problem of child abuse in Bukomasimbi district?

