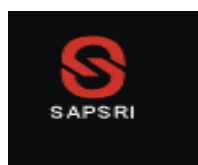


Sri Lanka Research Report

The sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation
and trafficking of children in Sri Lanka



Swiss Solidarity

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Definitions

Legal Definition of a Child:

A child means every human being below the age of 18 years, unless under the national law applicable to the child majority is attained earlier. (Article 1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

According to the Penal Code of Sri Lanka, the country's major statute embodying the substantive criminal law, a child is deemed to be a person who is under 18 years of age, which definition therefore makes it compatible with that of the CRC. The Age of Majority (Amendment) Act No. 17 of 1989 places the age of majority at 18.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA):

'Sexual abuse of children can be defined as contacts or interaction between a child and an older or more knowledgeable child or adult (a stranger, sibling or person in a position of authority, such as a parent or caretaker) when the child is being used as an object of gratification for an older child's or adult's sexual needs. These contacts or interactions are carried out against the child using force, trickery, bribery, threats or pressure.'¹

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC):

It is important to distinguish child sexual abuse (CSA) from the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). For the purposes of this study, the following definition of CSEC is used:

'...criminal practices that demean, degrade or threaten the physical and psychosocial integrity of children, in particular, sexual abuse by an adult *and remuneration in cash or kind* to a child or third person(s). There are three primary and interrelated forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children: prostitution, pornography, and trafficking for sexual purposes. Other forms of commercial sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to, child sex tourism, and child marriages.'²

¹ Focal Point against Sexual Exploitation of Children 'Definitions on child sexual abuse and related terms' (<http://www.focalpointngo.org/ngonews/defiChildAbuse.htm>)

² ECPAT International and Plan International. (2004). Report on Laws and Legal Procedures Concerning the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in India.

Thus, the term 'commercial sexual exploitation' implies the presence of sexual abuse, while the term 'sexual abuse' – such as for the abuse of a child within the home – would not necessarily imply that the child is further exploited for the benefit of the abuser or others.

Child Trafficking:

It is also important, particularly in the case of Sri Lanka, to differentiate the terms 'trafficking' and 'commercial sexual exploitation'. These terms are often conflated in legislation, policy, advocacy and research documents. It is seen that boys are frequently psychologically or physically coerced into situations of commercial sexual exploitation, particularly prostitution, from street or labour situations to which they have not been 'trafficked' according to international definitions. In the case of Sri Lanka, there is little evidence of boys being directly trafficked into prostitution situations in which they are directly exploited by others for the economic gain. Rather, it appears that most boys enter prostitution from vulnerable situations in their families and communities through peer coercion and by their own consent (although the term 'consent' has its limitations when applied to children), and generally act as economically independent agents in prostitution, although others benefit by procurement of the child prostitutes for clients, and provision of rooms and services related to their prostitution.

Tdh applied the definition of child trafficking drawn from Article 3 of the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United National Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime* (Palermo Protocol).³

Article 3 - Use of terms

For the purposes of this Protocol:

- (a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
- (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;
- (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;
- (d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

³ The Palermo Trafficking Protocol is found at www.odccp.org/crime_cicp_convention.htm#final

Child Sex Tourism (CST):

The commercial sexual exploitation of children by people who travel from one location to another and there engage in sexual acts with minors. (ECPAT International)

Introduction

Background:

Sri Lanka is famed for the proverbial three S's: Sun, Sea and Sand. In the north and east of the country, the government has been engaged in armed conflict for over 25 years with the secessionist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Relative to the other countries of South Asia, the Sri Lankan government over the last 40 years has been able to provide adequate social services to its population: the country has the best educational system in South Asia, with a relatively high attendance of children in school, and health services that reach the majority of the population. People's access to media is high throughout the country.

At the same time, the ongoing civil war and decrease in the strength of the agricultural economy, which supports approximately 75% of the population, have resulted in increased rural poverty. In response to this, the government has engaged in two primary economic strategies, both of which have had a direct impact on the sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The first strategy has been the promotion of external labour migration for women. Sri Lanka has the highest proportion in South Asia of females working abroad for employment, and these comprise primarily women who have young children. The consequent absence of female caregivers has resulted in a reduction of protection for children in the home, in turn resulting in what many consider to be a high level of domestic sexual abuse.

The second economic strategy supported by the government has been the development of an international tourism industry, initiated in the 1970s. National and international tourism are mainly concentrated around the western, north central, central and southern provinces. Tourism is one of the main income-generating activities for the country. While benefiting the economy, the growth of tourism coupled with low levels of child protection, the prevalence of domestic child sexual abuse and increasing rural poverty is thought to have contributed to the growth of child sex tourism (CST) in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka gained notoriety for the availability of child sex in the 1980s. Since then, many local NGOs and international agencies have been active in raising the issue as a concern and developing projects around the issues. To date, the majority of interventions and research on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and child sex tourism have focused on the 'destination' end of the situation – that is, the locations where sexual exploitation take place. Fewer interventions and less research have been conducted on the 'source' side of the situation – that is, in the families and communities from which the exploited children originate.

Terre des hommes, following the 2004 Tsunami, and as part of its Tsunami Emergency Project, decided to undertake research on the possible links between child trafficking, CSEC, CST and the Tsunami. Tdh is considered one of the leading international non-government organisations working on the complicated topic of child trafficking and has

many projects addressing the issues in the 32 countries in which it has delegations globally. The Tdh approach is always to explore and attempt to address the issues at the 'source' as well as the 'destination' end of the trafficking route, in other words addressing both the 'push' and 'pull' factors that are present for children to move into CSEC and CST. This was the case for this research in Sri Lanka. This study has attempted to examine, through interviews with stakeholders, community members and children, the situation of CSEC and CST at 'destination', as well as the factors on the 'source' side which contribute to children entering commercial sexual exploitation.

It should also be noted that child trafficking is not only for CSEC and CST in Sri Lanka. Children are also trafficked for domestic service, child labour in factories, begging and baby selling. Tdh has had direct experiences with these in Sri Lanka and addresses them as part of their child protection approach within its existing projects. However, this study was intended to focus on child trafficking for CSEC and CST, with the view of designing and implementing projects to specifically address those issues.

Numbers of Children in the Sex Industry:

The number of children involved in the sex industry is disputed and open to interpretation. This can be evidenced by the varying estimations provided by individuals and organisations which are often quoted – Bond: 2,000 (1980), Department of Police: 2,000 (1985), Department of National Planning: 30,000 (1991), UNICEF: 25,000-30,000 (1991), PEACE: 15,000 (1999), Ratnapala: 1,459 (1999), SAP International: 36,000 (1998). The legitimacy of the figures quoted and the methods used to establish them vary, and it is not the intention of Tdh to challenge them. For this study, they provide a starting point for inquiry and confirm that CSEC and CST takes place in Sri Lanka. What the figures also confirm is the healthy level of research which has been carried out regarding the topic of child sexual exploitation. For Tdh, the link of child trafficking with CSEC and CST remained unexplored at the inception of this study.

Sri Lanka Legal Framework:

Sri Lanka became a signatory to the Global Plan of Action for Children in 1991 and adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in July 1991, signifying her commitment to upholding the welfare and protection of children within a legal and political framework. In 1992, a Children's Charter was developed for Sri Lanka based on the CRC.

The legislation of Sri Lanka relevant to child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation includes, among others: the Penal Code of Sri Lanka; Ordinance No. 2 of 1883 and subsequent Amendments; the Vagrants Ordinance 1941; the Brothels Ordinance; the Children and Young Persons Ordinance No. 48 of 1939; and the National Child Protection Authority Act 1998.

In the Penal Code of 1883 (PC), there are no adequate provisions to address the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. This was remedied under the Penal Code (Amendment) Acts No. 22 of 1995, No. 29 of 1998, and No. 16 of 2006. The legislation as a whole is comprehensive in addressing all forms of sexual abuse, although it does not adequately protect boy and girls of ages 16 to 18. The primary gap in the legislation is its inability to address children in prostitution who are not victims of trafficking, thus neglecting large numbers of children, particularly boys who are sexually exploited by tourists and local community members.

Sexual abuse

While Sri Lankan legislation adequately protects girls, sexual intercourse with a male child is not defined as rape, and is not explicitly recognized as child sexual abuse in Sri Lankan law. Section 363 of Penal Code 1883 defines rape as forced penetrative sexual intercourse of a female victim by a male perpetrator. This gap was not rectified in the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 1995 (PCA 1995). Consent is considered irrelevant if the girl is under the age of 16. Between 16 and 18, the child's lack of consent must be proved by prosecution. However, aggravated offences include rape of any female below 18, as well as gang rape, rape of a mentally or physically disabled person, and notably, rape by a person in a position of authority or the management or staff of a caregiving facility.

Although boys are not identified as rape victims *per se* under the section on rape, sexual intercourse with boys can be adjudicated under Section 365 of the Penal Code, 'Of Unnatural Offences', and the 1995 Amendment Act. This section and its amendment have two constraints: they do not protect boys between the ages of 16 and 18; and they presumably could be used to convict children as co-perpetrators rather than victims, as well as criminalizing adult male homosexual relationships, as has been done in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Sri Lankan law directly criminalizes incest. In the Penal Code and its 1995 amendment, incest is defined as 'sexual intercourse with another, who stands towards him in any of the following degrees of relationship...'⁴ which include biological and adoptive parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, widows and half-relations. The law applies to both male and female victims, and either males or females may be considered perpetrators. However, this section does not distinguish child victims from adult victims.

Child prostitution

Sri Lankan law prohibits the mechanisms surrounding child prostitution, including procuring a child for prostitution, permitting a child to be on premises for the purpose of sexual abuse, and causing 'the seduction or prostitution' of a child. However, it does not directly define or forbid sexual intercourse with a child prostitute, that is, the crime of being a client of child prostitutes. While sexual intercourse with a child is punishable under several sections of the Penal Code and its amendments, commercial sexual intercourse of a client with a child is not directly considered an offence.

Commercial sexual exploitation was insufficiently addressed in the law of Sri Lanka until the Penal Code Amendment Act of 1995. The 1995 amendment to the Penal Code added a specific section on sexual exploitation to the Penal Code. Section 360B criminalizes any person who allows a child to be on any premises for the purpose of 'causing the child to be sexually abused or to participate in any form or sexual activity or in any obscene or indecent exhibition or show',⁵ as well as a person who acts as a procurer of a child for sexual intercourse or 'any form of sexual abuse', by means of influence, threat, violence or provision of money or benefits to the child or his/her family. A child is deemed to be a person under the age of 18 and the law applies to both boys and girls.

The PCA 1998 gave recognition to the reality that children themselves can be hired or coerced into procuring other children for prostitution. It criminalizes any person who 'hires,

⁴ PC and PCA 1995, Section 364A.

⁵ PCA 1998, Section 360B.

employs, persuades, uses, induces or coerces a child to procure any person for illicit sexual intercourse'.⁶

In the original Penal Code, there was no reference to, or additional penalty for, procuring a child for commercial sexual abuse within the country, and this section denied protection for children between 16 and 18 years. This section has been remedied in the 2006 amendment, which adds a sub-section, 360E, criminalizing soliciting a child (defined as under 18 years) within or outside Sri Lanka for 'the purpose of sexual abuse'.⁷ However, the light penalty of 'not less than two years' for the offence remains in effect.

Child sex tourism

Sri Lanka does not have direct extradition or extraterritorial agreements with other countries, although the judiciary and police cooperate to punish offenders who are arrested under other countries' extraterritorial legislation. With the realization of the need to address sex tourism, including the culpability of hotel owners in tourists' exploitation of children on hotel premises, the Penal Code Amendment Act 2006 amends Section 286A, legally obligating 'any persons who, having the charge, care, control or possession of any premises being used for commission of an act constituting the abuse of a child' to inform the police authorities of the fact.⁸

Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation

The laws of the Penal Code on trafficking in Sri Lanka have recently been amended to concur with the Optional Protocol on Trafficking. As of the 2006 amendment, the mechanisms of trafficking include buying, selling, bartering, recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, receiving, 'or any other act'.⁹ The addition of the words 'or any other act' allows the law to address a wide range of recruitment mechanisms that may not be included in the definition.

In the 2006 amendment, the *modus operandi* of the trafficker include the use of threat, force, fraud, deception, or inducement or by exploiting the vulnerability of another. However, some common means by which traffickers acquire victims are not included, such as abduction, or deceiving, causing fear to, threatening or coercing the parent or guardian.

Whereas the previous Penal Code legislation on trafficking, as of the 1995 amendment, was limited due to its emphasis on the transportation of the trafficked child 'to a foreign country', this has been addressed in the 2006 amendment, in which the country of destination is not mentioned. Thus the law includes both internal and external trafficking. The most significant weakness in the present amendment is the exceedingly soft penalty for trafficking, being 'not less than two years' for an adult, and 'not less than three years' for a child'.¹⁰

⁶ PCA 1998, Section 288A.

⁷ PCA 2006, Section 360E.

⁸ PCA 2006, Section 286C.

⁹ PCA 2006, Section 360C.

¹⁰ PCA 2006, Section 360C.

Sri Lankan policy on trafficking

The Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Children is exceptional in South Asia for recognizing family disruption as a key cause of trafficking as well as addressing the common 'root causes', such as poverty and lack of education. While this NPA does not identify certain elements of family dysfunction, such as domestic violence, as contributing causes of trafficking, it does recognise the family's need for health care and economic and social stability. Community-based development initiatives are endorsed as means to strengthen the family's protection of the child. Notably, the NPA addresses the excessive institutionalisation of children in Sri Lanka by encouraging community and family involvement in rehabilitation. While not directly covered in the NPA, child sexual abuse in Sri Lanka is addressed by the establishment through legislation of the National Child Protection Authority, an interdisciplinary governmental body to address sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced labour and illegal adoption.

Summary of Findings

Summary: Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking in Sri Lanka

As often occurs in qualitative research, the information collected revealed areas of relevance not predicted by the research objectives, and rendered some of the intended central foci of the research to be of less vital concern than anticipated. Initially, the study intended to investigate the presence of child trafficking and its links with child sex tourism and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. As well, the study intended to examine the impact of the 2004 tsunami on the trafficking of children into commercial sexual exploitation. In brief, the study found (despite inadequate reporting of trafficking by law enforcement officials) relatively little trafficking of children into commercial sexual exploitation, as opposed to children entering CSEC from intermediate situations, such as domestic service or other labour, marriage, or proximity to opportunities for prostitution, such as military installations or tourist sites. At the same time, the study found little evidence of linkages between the tsunami and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, although it found evidence of the sexual abuse of child tsunami victims in 'tsunami camps'. At the same time, the study found a high incidence of sexual abuse in the homes and communities of children, both boys and girls, and clear linkages between 'domestic' sexual abuse and children's entry into commercial sexual exploitation.

Sexual abuse

The study found a high rate of sexual abuse of both boys and girls within the family and in the community. Most of the evidence collected from informants and from the documentation of government officials and NGOs related to the sexual abuse of girl children. Research showed a concerning incidence of incest in all of the target communities investigated. For girl children, the sexual abuser most frequently identified was a male relative such as the father, step-father, grandfather or uncle. After these, the abusers most frequently identified were others known to the child, usually boyfriends or male community members. The source of girls' vulnerability to abuse by family members

was most often cited as lack of protection due to the absence of female caregivers, particularly mothers, due to their working overseas or in distant tea gardens or cinnamon plantations. Few details regarding the sexual abuse of boys were collected during the study, although sufficient information was collected to confirm its existence.

Informants provided generous information on the linkages between domestic sexual abuse and girl children entering commercial sexual exploitation ('prostitution' in this case) or being vulnerable to trafficking. Although families and communities provided poor protection to girls from sexual abuse, society strongly stigmatized those who became victims of sexual abuse. Considered to be 'spoiled', girls were rejected by families and communities and alienated from their peers. The study showed that this stigmatisation often directly resulted in girls either entering prostitution in their home vicinity, or leaving home for employment in other areas, from which employment, due to inadequate income, they entered prostitution. As well, the stigma of having been abused was shown in a number of cases to make the girls vulnerable to the aggression of traffickers, some of whom, pretending to be 'boyfriends', placed the children in prostitution.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The study found that most girl children in prostitution provided sexual services to local community members, soldiers, local tourists, businessmen and other local persons. Venues of prostitution were primarily hotels and guest houses, many of them unregistered. In some tourist areas, girls also provided sexual services to foreign tourists at 'karaoke bars', hotels and guest houses. On the other hand, data indicate that most boy children in prostitution provided sexual services primarily to foreign tourists, and usually at coastal tourist destinations. These were mostly post-pubescent boys exploited by foreigners for pornographic photography and holiday sex, and in some cases being taken around the country acting as 'tourist guides'. Respondents also noted increasing cases of older female foreign tourists taking 'male companions' during their holidays. There was not great evidence of boys conducting prostitution for local persons.

Girl children entered commercial sexual exploitation due to a number of 'push' and 'pull' factors, including the stigma of previous sexual abuse, as mentioned above. Apart from previous sexual abuse, many girls entered commercial sexual exploitation following their entry into a labour situation in which they could not earn sufficient income. Lack of funds, and presumably influence from peers and pimps, led girls into commercial sexual exploitation. In a few of the cases, girls were pushed into prostitution by their families, sometimes by mothers who were prostitutes. In other cases, 'boyfriends' who had previously raped the child provided the girl to friends, and then led the girl into prostitution.

Boys appeared to be less 'pushed' than 'pulled' into commercial sexual exploitation. Few appeared to be coerced into prostitution. Most entered prostitution by the influence of other boys with whom they 'hung out' on the beaches near tourist venues, and some through the direct machinations of sex tourists. Most entered of their own volition, seeking money as well as companionship and the hoped-for opportunity of travel abroad.

In terms of intermediaries in prostitution, there does not appear to be a great presence of coercive 'pimps' in the prostitution of either boys or girls in Sri Lanka. A number of girls who work in brothels (under the guise of hotels and guest houses), however, were found to be under some coercion, including deprivation of income. The study did not investigate this situation to any extent. Many girls appear to be virtually 'free agents'. Boys generally appear to be 'free agents' in prostitution, although like girls, they share their income with

three wheeler drivers, hotel and guest house personnel, peers and others who link them with clients.

In the case of both boys and girls, respondents frequently noted the complicity or encouragement of family members for their children to engage in prostitution.

Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The research confirmed the trafficking of girls into CSEC within Sri Lanka, although it did not confirm the trafficking of boys into this situation (however the trafficking of boys into other worst forms of child labour, begging and military situations has been recorded by other studies). In a few instances, the study identified young boys who had been coerced, in one case through the use of drugs, into sexual exploitation. Generally, however, the study found that few boys were brought into prostitution for the immediate monetary benefit of others by abduction, duplicity, physical coercion, threat or other tactics that fall under the international definition of 'trafficking'.

The tendency for girls to be trafficked is far greater than it is for boys, and the primary method of trafficking is duplicity. In these cases, the child is usually moved or sold by a trusted other, with or without the full understanding of the child, from the village to a major town and then on to a large city such as Colombo. Often the girls are promised jobs in domestic labour, garment factories or restaurants, and after transportation by the trafficker are then placed in prostitution. In other cases, girls accompany a 'husband' or 'boyfriend' who takes them from the village and places them in prostitution in another area. In many cases, girls are not transported by traffickers, but are coerced into prostitution by pimps, 'boyfriends', peers or family members in or near their home community, or in a labour situation distant from their home.

Summary: Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking

Reported trafficking and abuse cases were not disaggregated by sex in the data presented by this study. The study found that throughout the country, at both the central and district levels, identification and reporting of trafficking cases by law enforcement officials were minimal, although an extensive number of sexual abuse cases, particularly rape, was reported. The adequate identification and reporting of sexual abuse cases are a consequence of high awareness of sexual abuse among law enforcement officials (as well as other government officials, community members and children), and the existence of legislation that clearly identifies forms of sexual abuse.

There was no clear identification and reporting of cases of child prostitution. Sri Lankan legislation, as mentioned above, does not clearly define or specifically outlaw 'child prostitution' *per se*. Consequently, many children who are commercially sexually exploited are identified as the perpetrators of a crime (prostitution or vagrancy) rather than as victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The study showed high numbers of children being placed in remand for conducting child prostitution, with relatively few persons being identified, arrested and prosecuted for the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The latter were primarily identified and charged with sexual abuse offences.

The low level of identification and reporting of trafficking cases stems in part from the lack of knowledge of law enforcement officials on the formal identification of 'trafficking' cases, and in part from the relatively recent advent of legislation outlawing internal trafficking in Sri Lanka. Few officials reported adequate knowledge of the term 'trafficking'. When the

term was explained to law enforcement officials, they could not readily place the offence within the framework of the laws which they are engaged to uphold. This is likely a result of Sri Lanka's only very recent (2006) inclusion of internal trafficking in its legal corpus. Prior to the Penal Code (Amendment) Act of 2006, trafficking *per se* was considered an offence only if the victim was transported across national borders. Thus, prior to that time, trafficking into sexual exploitation within Sri Lanka was not clearly identified as an offence. Perpetrators were identified and charged under the offences of sexual abuse, primarily rape, and on occasion kidnapping and abduction. Often, child victims of trafficking were charged with the offence of prostitution or vagrancy, thus legally treated as perpetrators instead of victims. As, prior to 2006, Sri Lankan law did not recognize internal trafficking, nor to this day directly acknowledges the rape of boys, the traffickers of boy children have been outside the rule of law, unless charged with offences such as sodomy, kidnapping, abduction or procurement.

As well, factors at the family and community levels discourage the reporting of trafficking as well as sexual abuse offences. The study showed a low level of knowledge of 'trafficking' among government officials who work with children (including school teachers, health care providers and the staff of caregiving facilities), community members and children. The only government officials with an adequate level of awareness on trafficking were Police Officers, Probation Officers and Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPOs) working under the National Child Protection Authority. Consequently, the abduction of children by others frequently went unrecognized. At the same time, while there was a high level of awareness of child sexual abuse among all stakeholders and children, as in other parts of the world families were reluctant to report abuse within the family unit for fear of community stigma and discrimination. In some instances, community members stated that they were reluctant to report abuse in their communities due to fear of reprisal from the abusers, who often included powerful local figures such as police, clergy and businessmen.

Offences against children, including sexual abuse and trafficking, are recorded at the national level. However, because of inadequate linkages with provincial and district authorities, the information accumulated at the national level is limited. The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), Sri Lanka's primary child protection agency, has a Police Desk which carries out investigations into allegations of child abuse, as well as CSEC, CST and trafficking.

The following are child-related offences recorded by the NCPA for 2005:

Child labour: 8
Corporal Punishment: 15
Emotional Abuse: 5
Fatal Abuse: 1
Kidnapping: 27
Neglect: 19
Physical Abuse: 44
Sexual Abuse: 196

It is notable that no cases of trafficking were reported by the NCPA in 2005. It is also notable that the NCPA statistics indicate no offence by which a child is a victim of 'commercial sexual exploitation' or 'child prostitution'.

The headquarters of the Children and Women's Bureau in Fort, Colombo, compiles a monthly list of all incidents of abuse, including sexual abuse against children, from data received from its 36 satellite desks around the country. It is also responsible for the investigation and preparation of evidence for potential prosecutions relating to cases of child abuse, including trafficking. Data compiled by the Children and Women's Bureau reveal that the highest numbers of offences committed against children are those of a sexual nature. Data for the period January to April 2006 indicate 274 cases of rape, followed by 140 cases of grave sexual abuse. For the same time period, no cases of trafficking were reported.

Some data on trafficking, however, has been recorded by the central Police Department Planning and Statistics Division. As the outcomes of 'abduction/kidnapping' are not clear, cases of trafficking may have been recorded under abduction or kidnapping.

Trafficking Crime Trends:

Year	Offence	Cases Recorded	Cases Pending	Convictions
2004	Trafficking	16	16	0
2003	Trafficking	9	8	0
2002	Trafficking	37	35	0
2001	Trafficking	29	28	0

Trafficking-related Crime Trends

Year	Offence	Cases Recorded	Cases Pending	Convictions
2004	Abduction/Kidnapping	868	675	21
2003	Abduction/Kidnapping	829	599	26
2002	Abduction/Kidnapping	739	594	13
2001	Abduction/Kidnapping	767	616	40

"The reason very few cases of trafficking are recorded, if at all, is because the level of knowledge among the police, including senior Police Officers, is nil and they are the people who are responsible for recording incidents and preparing a file for prosecution purposes by carrying out the necessary investigations"

From a senior legal source at the Attorney General's Department Sri Lanka's State Prosecutor.

Summary: Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking

Government, NGOs and the media in Sri Lanka have successfully raised awareness of child sexual abuse throughout the country. In all of the target areas almost all of the respondents, including government officials, community members and children, were

aware of child sexual abuse and had knowledge about its causes and permutations. The vast majority of respondents interviewed knew what type of abuse could befall children, and many thought it was a common activity. Respondents had heard about child sexual abuse on TV, radio, at school, in training sessions and through local gossip.

At the same time, very few stakeholders were familiar with the term 'trafficking'. Those who knew about trafficking included Police Officers, Child Probation Officers and Child Rights Protection Officers (CRPOs). All of these had received information about trafficking in their work, although the study found that few of these officials, including police, knew how to address trafficking as a phenomenon. Police seldom identified the crime of trafficking as such, and filed the offence as sexual abuse, particularly rape.

Other government officials (such as school teachers, health officials and staff in Children's Homes), community members and children neither understood the term 'trafficking' nor had a clear understanding of what it entailed. Many thought it to be a form of 'migration', 'improper behaviour' or 'prostitution', and did not understand it as a mechanism for engaging a person in commercial sexual exploitation. However, once the concept was explained, the respondents were able to relate it to their experience and often were able to identify trafficking routes and perpetrators of trafficking in their communities.

Summary: Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers

Although few respondents could readily identify those who would be termed 'traffickers', most were able to identify those complicit in the sexual exploitation of children. The identification of those complicit in CSEC depended much on whether the victims of sexual exploitation were male or female. For girl victims, notably many of the persons complicit in children entering sexual exploitation were male family members, as well as mothers and boyfriends. For boy victims, complicit persons included peers, family members (particularly brothers) and foreign tourists. Three wheeler drivers were frequently mentioned in their role of pimping, that is providing clients with contact with child prostitutes.

In the study, the term 'sexual abusers' primarily refers to the perpetrators of abuse of the child in the home or community. For both male and female children, the primary abusers in the home and community were male family members, followed by other persons known to the child. When respondents referred to 'sexual abusers' as clients engaging a child in commercial sexual exploitation, the primary abusers mentioned for girls were local tourists, *mudalalis* (merchants), hotel and guest house owners, boyfriends and soldiers, and for boys were primarily foreign tourists.

Summary: Protectors

In the FGDs, children were asked whom they felt they could turn to for protection from trafficking and sexual abuse. Those most often mentioned were Police Officers, Probation Officers and teachers. Children in residential care, such as Children's Homes, said that they could rely on caregivers to give them protection. Many children were not aware of the existence of CRPOs. Notably, community members and family members did not rank high among those to whom the children would go for protection. Among family members, the children almost only mentioned female family members. Male family members were not considered by children to provide protection from trafficking and sexual abuse.

Summary: Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not

Respondents were asked for their opinion on the sources of children's vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. Most respondents identified poverty and lack of family protection as the key factors in children being sexually abused or entering into commercial sexual exploitation.

The absence of female caregivers (i.e., mothers) due to working abroad or in the plantations was cited as a primary reason why children are vulnerable to sexual abuse, particularly abuse from male family members. Respondents identified parents' low education, illiteracy, and lack of awareness and understanding of abuse and exploitation as reasons for low levels of family protection. Respondents noted family dysfunction, including alcoholism, and parental negligence as contributing factors.

Respondents also noted factors in the children themselves which contributed to their vulnerability, including being unable to 'control their emotions', acting carelessly, dropping out of school, and falling under the influence of friends. Children's lack of knowledge and information about trafficking and reproductive health was also cited.

Summary: 'Push' and 'Pull' Factors:

For both male and female children, the primary 'push' factors which engage children in commercial sexual exploitation were poverty and lack of family unity and protection. Parental neglect, absence of parents (especially mothers) from the home, and parents encouraging children to bring home money without questioning its source were repeatedly mentioned by informants as contributing to the entry of both boys and girls into commercial sexual exploitation. Parents' low literacy and ignorance of sexual exploitation were also noted as 'push' factors. For both boys and girls, dropping out of school was considered a factor that increases vulnerability to entering CSEC.

The research revealed, particularly for girls, that sexual abuse in their home or community was the primary 'push' factor for their entry into commercial sexual exploitation. Following abuse, girls' vulnerability is aggravated by the traditional perception that once a girl loses her virginity she is 'soiled goods' and her marriage and social prospects are lost. Although this perception is fast being eroded in urban areas, it is still very much the thinking in rural areas. Community stigma and discrimination following sexual abuse can be seen as a major factor that 'pushes' girl children into commercial sexual exploitation.

In addition, 'push' factors for girls noted by respondents included the girls' ignorance of sexual abuse and exploitation, and the influence of mothers in prostitution. Respondents also noted that personal psychological and physical characteristics of girl children contribute to their vulnerability, including good looks, too much freedom, and irresponsible social behaviour, particularly engaging in risky relationships with men. 'Pull' factors noted by respondents as relevant specifically to girls were under-aged marriage (which resulted in exploitation by the husband), and false promises of employment.

For boys the experience is different, mainly due to the facts that boys can not get pregnant and virginity among men is not a cultural imperative. Boys, like girls, are influenced by 'push' factors such as poverty, low family protection, and the absence of family guidance and support. Boys are more likely than girls to respond to these factors by leaving home, to escape family problems and/or to search for better economic options.

The 'pull' factors which influence boys' entry into commercial sexual exploitation are primarily the opportunity to earn money, coupled with the proximity to tourists and the negative influence of peers who frequent tourist areas.

For both boys and girls, respondents noted another set of 'push' and 'pull' factors: those which influence the child to re-enter commercial sexual exploitation after they have been rescued or withdrawn and, often, served time in a Remand Home or Children's Home. As noted in this study, there is very low community and parental acceptance of children after they have been sexually abused or exploited. Return to the family and community is not welcomed, and stigma and discrimination provide a powerful 'push' factor that encourages children to re-enter prostitution or seek overseas employment.

While boys are somewhat less affected than girls by family and community discrimination after abuse and exploitation, they too are inclined to seek more accepting and comfortable environment among their peers in prostitution and among foreign tourists. For both boys and girls, the desire and need to earn money remain as 'pull' factors, drawing the children back into sexual exploitation.

Summary: Community Attitudes Towards Sexually Abused and Exploited Children

Respondents uniformly stated that community and family attitudes towards sexually abused and trafficked children are negative, and result in significant stigma and discrimination against child victims. Girl children in particular are subject to rejection, and there are reports of girl children being killed after they return to their communities. Respondents noted that families will reject both boy and girl children fearing that their presence will bring shame on the family and fearing that those children will negatively affect the other siblings.

Given the ease with which children are incarcerated in institutions in Sri Lanka, the study indicates that families often themselves seek the placement of their children in government institutions if they have a history of abuse or exploitation, or even have committed minor infractions of the law. In a few cases, respondents stated that children could be accepted by the community if they behaved in an appropriate manner and conducted acts of contrition. However, these statements were few, and generally the study concludes that family and community acceptance of returned child victims is very poor, and frequently results in the children re-entering situations of sexual exploitation.

Summary: Links to the Tsunami

Throughout the research, it was explored whether the Tsunami had an impact on the trafficking of children into CSEC and CST. No clear link could be established. Anecdotal stories from various sources made reference to children being sold into sexual exploitation, but upon further investigation no solid empirical evidence could be established. The research did reveal the heightened vulnerability of children housed in 'tsunami camps' to both physical and sexual abuse.

Summary: What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Respondents were asked their views on ways in which children could be better protected from sexual abuse and exploitation. The responses focused on five primary areas of intervention: awareness for children; awareness for parents and community members; strengthening family and community child protection mechanisms; assisting children to mainstream into society; and improving the economic situation of the family.

Awareness for Children. Respondents said that children should be provided awareness programmes on sexual abuse, trafficking and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS and STIs. Children should also be given practical skills in protecting themselves from abusers and information about who to turn to for protection in case of attempted abuse.

Awareness for Parents and Community Members. Awareness programmes need to be conducted for parents and community members on trafficking and sexual abuse, including the consequences of sexual activities among their older children.

Strengthening Family and Community Child Protection Mechanisms. Respondents most frequently recommended mechanisms to re-unite fragmented families, including reducing women travelling overseas for labour, in order to provide adequate protection to the child at home. Activities to reduce alcoholism in the family, particularly among fathers, should be undertaken. Encouraging families to develop supportive relationships with neighbours was thought to reduce the risk of abuse and trafficking in the community. Respondents recommended interventions to keep children in the family and community, such as minimising the migration of children to the cities, establishing day-care centres and drop-in activities for boys and girls, and providing a safe place for children to go when released from prisons or Children's Homes.

Assisting Children to Mainstream into Society. Respondents recommended a number of means by which children could be supported to better engage with society. These included ensuring that children complete their education, providing useful vocational training and educational scholarships, giving children 'modern' functional education including English and computer lessons, and providing them better access to libraries. Respondents recommended providing access to counselling for children and encouraging their participation and leadership skills through children's societies, child clubs and functions in which children could demonstrate their potential.

Improving the Economic Situation of the Family. The economic weakness of families was considered by respondents to be a primary cause of children's vulnerability to sexual exploitation and trafficking. Respondents recommended programmes to assist parents with income generation and provide them with employment, as well as welfare programmes to assist them with building houses, acquiring land and providing for the basic needs of the family.

Child Victims in Children's Homes, Remand Homes and Certified Schools:

Incidental to the primary objective of the study, the research revealed a concern regarding the institutionalisation of children in Sri Lanka. FGDs with children and caregivers were conducted in Children's Homes, in which child victims are placed for their 'protection', and information was collected on the presence of children in Remand Homes and Certified Schools, in which children, both victims and juvenile perpetrators of crimes, are placed for remand and for their 'rehabilitation'. This study and others have shown a very high rate of institutionalisation of children in Sri Lanka compared with other countries of South Asia. Many children are remanded or placed in Children's Homes for very minor offences. Others are placed in homes pending court procedures, which can take years, and child

victims of rape and other crimes are placed in homes for 'protection'. In Sri Lanka, children in prostitution are often treated as perpetrators. If 'rescued' by the police, the child is normally sent to a Remand Home for the duration of the court case and thereafter to a Certified School. The court system in Sri Lanka is extremely slow and it is not uncommon for a child to remain in State Homes for up to three years. Abandoned and street children as well as child prostitutes are frequently arrested under the country's strong vagrancy laws, and placed in institutions for their 'rehabilitation'.

In conducting research in Children's Homes, the study team found that many children were placed in homes for reasons considered insufficient to separate them from their families. Examples include a child who was incarcerated for not looking after his siblings, another who was incarcerated for singing in the bus stand, and another who was placed in custody for running away from a domestic labour situation. Researchers noted that most children were in the homes for what could be viewed as mundane reasons, many having committed no crime at all. The children often remained in the homes for many years, many until they reached 18 years of age. In institutions, these children were seen to be separated from their parents, provided inadequate schooling, and encouraged by peers to engage in anti-social behaviour.

In their visit to one Children's Home, the researchers noted that although none of the children observed had yet been victims of trafficking or sexual abuse, the dislocation of their lives due to institutionalisation could be seen as making them extremely vulnerable to future trafficking and sexual abuse. Once in a Certified School or Remand Home, the child can be sent to school or given vocational training. It became clear that girls, especially, will seize the first opportunity available to run away, most often with anyone who will help them. 'If there is a three wheeler driver or labourer in the area, the girls will just run away with them,' said a Principal of a Certified School. This exposes them to being highly vulnerable to further exploitation or to return to CSEC or CST.

According to staff members, both the central and provincial governments conduct psychosocial counselling for children, awareness-raising programmes for both children and teachers, and teacher training. However, from observation and from the children's point of view, these services were inadequate. During discussions with Remand Home and Certified School staff it became clear that the facilities in homes were lacking and there was nothing to motivate children for the duration of their stay, either in the form of an education or vocational training. The children wanted to keep up with the times, and expressed the wish to study computing and English, rather than learning skills like cake-making and masonry, which they felt were not sustainable once they left the home.

The researchers conducted focus group discussions with children in a girl's home, during which the children often cried while confiding in the researchers. They complained about not being able to live with their families even when their families wanted them to return. They had to remain in the Remand Home on Court Orders until their case was concluded. They were sad at not being sent to school. The only vocational training they were being given was sewing. When children in Remand Homes are not sent to school, they have difficulty catching up as they could be many years behind. Some may never get an opportunity to go to school again.

Another issue was the placement of children in Remand Homes great distances from their families. For example, children from the Anuradhapura District were placed in a Remand Home in distant Gampaha District. The Department of Probation and Child Care Services agreed that this was a problem and explained that whenever possible, depending on the availability of places, the Probation Officer would recommend to the Court that the child be

placed in a home nearer the child's family and community. When the child is placed a considerable distance from their family, it becomes difficult for the child and family to maintain regular contact due to geographical and financial constraints.

Research Methodology

Research Topic:

The study investigated child trafficking and its links with sexual abuse, child sex tourism and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Regarding trafficking, the focus of this study was specifically on the trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation and child sex tourism. Trafficking of children for other purposes was not investigated. Moreover, the study examined whether the tsunami had an impact on the trafficking of children into commercial sexual exploitation.

Research Objective:

The objective of the research for Terre des hommes was the examination of the issue both at the sending and receiving communities, with a clear view to implementing projects. The research was not focused on collecting figures and numbers, but on collecting and analyzing personal narratives from children, their communities, their parents and all actors involved in prevention or who had contact with victims once withdrawn from sexual exploitation. In short, this study comprised action-oriented, qualitative research rather than the collection of quantitative data, with a clear view of commencing a child protection project with a holistic approach.

Geographical Areas of Research:

Following a literature review and targeted interviews, Tdh decided to concentrate the research in six districts, namely:

Anuradhapura in the North Central Province

Colombo in the Western Province

Dambulla in the Central Province

Gampaha in the Western Province

Galle in the Southern Province

Matara in the Southern Province

Polonnaruwa in the North Central Province

The initial site selection can be roughly summarized as locations for international and national tourism in Matara, Galle, Colombo and Gampaha Districts, as well as Sri Lankan Army rest and relaxation locations in Anuradhapura, Dambulla and Polonnaruwa Districts.

It was understood that boys are the primary targets of exploitation by international tourists, whereas girls are the primary targets of exploitation by national tourists and army personnel.

Prior to the inception of the research, no specific areas within these districts were identified as areas where the research should be carried out. As the research progressed the teams were able to identify areas where child trafficking cases had been reported, as well as areas where there was a greater risk of children being trafficked. This was based on information received through meetings and discussions with police, Probation Officers, School Principals, teachers, hotel and guest house owners, Grama Niladaris and members of the community. The researchers were instructed not to attempt going to areas where there are security risks, i.e., Welikanda in the Polonnaruwa District.

Research Duration:

The duration of the research was six months. Field work commenced in mid-May and ended in November 2006. However, many days of field work were lost during this period for various reasons. Several days during this period were taken up for training and team meetings for which the entire team had to travel to Colombo.

Research Training:

The research began with a residential training in Wattala for the entire team. Since the subject of trafficking, child sex tourism and commercial sexual exploitation of children was relatively new to the team, external consultants were engaged to deliver training sessions on the areas. Among those delivering the training were personnel from UNICEF, ILO and the Attorney General's Department.

Halfway through the research, there was a further residential training on focus group discussions in Wadduwa with an external consultant. This training focussed on the 'do's and don'ts' of focus group discussions, especially the ethics of having discussions with children in rehabilitation.

A final residential workshop was held two weeks before the field work was to end in mid-November, in which the team was given feedback on their findings. The researchers in turn relayed the findings to their resource persons and contact networks in the districts they had worked in. The team was also advised of programme ideas following work in the selected areas, about which they also provided feedback to their resource persons. It was felt that this feedback was an essential phase of the research due to the numerous accusations being levelled at NGOs, both international and local, and other organisations conducting research within communities that researchers entered the communities to extract information but nothing was ever given back. This belief among community members also led to their reluctance to share information. Interestingly, the feedback given to them did go some way to shift this thinking.

Child Participation:

Continual activities of child participation were conducted throughout the study. Tdh values and encourages children's opinions to be heard and acted upon.

Researchers were trained on and applied creative activities to engage children while holding interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) with them. The children

interviewed often discussed issues that concerned them with brutal honesty and without guarded responses. This honesty contributed greatly to the design of the project and was regarded highly by research management.

Research Phases:

Phase One (Knowledge-building):

- Training of research staff on tools, Tdh Child Protection Policy, research techniques and resource identification, child participation techniques
- Examine current knowledge of NGO networks on the research topic and accessibility to target group
- Mapping of resources, locations and location assessments

Phase Two (Investigation, Accessing and Trust-building):

- Investigation of currently-known cases and/or cases reclassified as trafficking
- Identification of locations and field observations
- Community and research resource trust-building
- Targeted children: trust-building
- Assessment of dangers for staff and target group

Phase Three (Participation):

- Training of field staff
- Participation workshops with resource persons (focus group discussions)
- Participation workshops with children (focus group discussions)

Phase Four (Feedback):

- Training of field staff
- Feedback of the results of findings and research to resources
- Feedback of the results to children

Research Tools:

Field Reports (Annex A). Researchers completed a field report for every assignment, contact or observation they made. The reports were posted weekly to the offices of SAPSRI. This document was linked to a data base maintained by Tdh.

Research Questions (Annex B). Researchers were provided with a sample question sheet to help them focus on the questions to be asked in order to ensure there was consistency in the information which was gathered. However, they had the freedom and were encouraged to ask questions driven from the answers extracted by the research questions,

in the event that further clarification was required. A pocket sized 'research hints' book was also prepared and supplied to all researches to aid their memory.

Action Planning (Annex C). Action planning was conducted both weekly and monthly. Teams were supplied with a tool to map their intended actions for the next period.

Interviews were conducted both formally and informally. *Formal interviews* were where the respondents were targeted and the research questions were directly put to them. These interviews took place primarily with children and the matrons/administrators/staff of children's Remand Homes and Certified Schools. Formal interviews were also conducted to gather relevant information to determine the existence and the extent of child sexual abuse, trafficking, CSEC and CST, the locations in which they take place, the push/pull factors, and the reporting or non-reporting of incidents. These interviews usually took place with government officials such as Probation Officers, Police Officers, School Principals and teachers, Grama Niladaris and health workers, including doctors of STD clinics, midwives, voluntary health workers, Public Health Inspectors and Samurdhi Officers.

Informal interviews were conducted during the introductory or 'trust building' stage where the ground-work was laid to move onto the formal interviews. They were also conducted with persons deemed to be too dangerous to be introduced to the research topic fully and with confidence.

Field observations were conducted at locations known for or suspected of CSEC and CST. Observations were carried out both during the day and at night. Beach observations were carried out over several days. Visits were made to 'karaoke bars', brothels and guesthouses where child sex workers were operating.

The following were observation locations:

Galle, Matara and Negombo beaches

Dambulla economic centre

Anuradhapura town centre

Forth and Pettah area

Lodges in Pettah

Focus group discussions were carried out with staff and children in children's Remand Homes and Certified Schools. The target group whenever possible were children who had been trafficked and/or had been sexually abused. During some of the FGDs in homes and schools, the staff was reluctant to let the researchers have access to children as they felt this would disturb their rehabilitation process. Where this was the case, the researchers respected their wishes and did not speak with the children but obtained the information from the matrons/staff of the home or school. FGDs were also carried out with community members, with government officials such as teachers and Samurdhi Officers, and in tsunami camps.

The following is a breakdown of the FGDs which were carried out:

Anuradhapura: 6

Dambulla and Polonnaruwa: 7

Matara: 2

Galle: 5

Gampaha: 9

Colombo: 9

Stakeholder meetings were held in all the districts where the research was conducted. Those participating were primarily Police Officers, Probation Officers, NGO workers, staff of Remand Homes and Certified Schools, the clergy, NCPA officials, school teachers and School Principals. Stakeholder meetings were useful in that they helped establish contacts with potential respondents who were able to provide leads for further inquiry.

Research Team:

The research team was comprised of one research co-ordinator, three district co-ordinators and 18 field researchers who were diploma students from the National Institute of Social Development. The majority of the field researchers were professionals on a two-year sabbatical to complete the Diploma in Social Work.

The research had two consultants from the partnering organisations. One consultant was from the South Asia Partnership Sri Lanka and the other consultant was from Terre des hommes.

Bureaucratic and Security Considerations:

The team encountered a lot of bureaucracy at the beginning of the research. Given the security situation in the country at the time, the safety of the researchers was a major consideration. The arrest of field researchers, particularly those who were working in Anuradhapura, Colombo and Polonnaruwa, was always a possibility, more so given the nature of the work involved. The researchers required letters of identification from Police Headquarters which took several weeks to obtain.

The researchers also required a letter of authority from the Department of Probation and Child Care Services and thereafter from a provincial councillor in order to visit children in Remand Homes and Certified Schools.

Process and Limitations of the Research:

Field work commenced by establishing links with potential resource persons in the chosen areas.

Once the initial link was established it was vital for the field researchers to build up a relationship with these resource persons. This was especially so in view of the nature of the subject being researched. Its secretive and sensitive nature meant that many respondents were reluctant to part with information at the beginning, but did so as the research progressed and they felt there was an element of trust. Most of the details pertaining to abuse and trafficking was obtained from officials such as Probation Officers, Police Officers and Samurdhi Officers, and from Remand Homes and Certified Schools.

Although this research was primarily on trafficking and the researchers were instructed to obtain details of trafficking cases, as the research progressed a plethora of sexual abuse cases came to light. It became evident that the areas of trafficking and sexual abuse were intertwined. It was found that most cases which were eventually clearly identified to be trafficking had a core element of child abuse in the home, particularly for girls.

The field researchers were unable to safely and fully speak with any child respondents while they were in the exploitative environment. The only time they were able to speak with children were at Remand Homes and Certified Schools. Even here, there were many

occasions when they were not able to speak with children because they were in rehabilitation and information had to be obtained from home and school staff instead.

Officials had a low level of clarity regarding what was and was not a trafficking case. Explaining the concept of trafficking required a large amount of the researchers' time. The level of understanding by officials of child trafficking caused concerns for research directors and creative methods of understanding had to be developed to gain information relative to the research topic. A strategic approach was taken to focus research staff on the 'push' and 'pull' factors present in communities which increase vulnerability to trafficking, such as: abuse in the home, school drop-out rates, low literacy, previous trafficking events and high-risk locations.

This approach led to the elimination of some research locations and the eventual concentration on potential project sites for the final seven weeks of the research. During the last seven weeks of the research, field work was concentrated on four districts and the field researchers were relocated to these areas. The areas were chosen on the basis of the level of trafficking into CSEC or CST identified by the researchers, and the prevalence of identified 'sending' and 'receiving' communities, including 'push' and 'pull' factors.

The final districts and areas were as follows:

Anuradhapura: Medawachchiya, Tantirimale, Rajanganaya, Vijithapura Dambulla: Commercial Centre, Athuparayaya, Madatugama, Rathmalgahaela Gampaha: Palangathurai Matara: Kotapola, Oorumuththa

An important final phase of the research was the provision of feedback to resource persons, including children. When the field researchers went back to the resource persons, reactions were mixed. Some of the resource persons were disappointed that programmes were not going to be carried out in their areas. Many appreciated the feedback and said they would be more vigilant about sexual abuse and trafficking. Those in the selected areas were happy that there was a possibility of work being carried out in their areas.

Research Ethics:

No member of the team was to put themselves in a position where any relationship they may have with a child could be questioned.

A residual message throughout the training and subsequent field work was the application and adherence to the Tdh Child Protection Policy. No child was to be put in any danger throughout the research, and if any child was identified to be at risk or requested assistance, suitable resources were to be mobilised to assist them. Furthermore, a process of risk management for researchers was employed by field supervisors and research management to minimize the risk of researchers being vulnerable to accusations, particularly when in contact with active sex workers and their controllers.

All members of the research team received training on and signed the Tdh Child Protection Policy.

Advocacy:

When children were discovered by researchers to be in high-risk locations and/or circumstances which required State intervention for child protection, Tdh met with Sri Lankan government actors and other interested parties to encourage action. For example, during field observations in a karaoke bar in Negombo three trafficked girl child sex

workers were discovered. Following informal discussions with them, Tdh research staff reported the bar to the Officer in Charge of the Women's and Children's Police Desk in Colombo. Following this, action was taken by the police.

Actions were also taken regarding a severe health issue found in a remote community in Matara District, even though this was not the focus of the research. The state of the children and the community required medical attention. Tdh prepared a document outlining the issues it had uncovered and delivered this to State actors for action.

Tdh also intends to disseminate this report as part of its advocacy responsibility to the research target and the topic in general.

Confidentiality:

Due to the nature of the research the majority of resource persons, especially children and government officers working with children, asked that their anonymity be protected and maintained. This request has been complied with and no detailed information has been provided which will allow for a resource person to be identified. Where such identification has been made, it has been done with the consent of the respondent.

District and Location Analysis

The following sections are supplied to give the reader more detailed information on the districts and locations where the research took place. The information is compiled from existing studies and from the field reports, informal and formal interviews, FGDs and field observations conducted during this study. A general demographic overview is also supplied.

ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT

Anuradhapura District is situated in the North Central Province, 128 km to the north of Colombo. It has a total land mass of 7,179 sq. km of which 6,664 sq. km is land and 515 sq. km are inland waters. Founded in the 4th century BC by King Pandukabaya, the city of Anuradhapura was Sri Lanka's first capital. The city was a model for planning, with the King making provision for hostels, hospitals and cemeteries. Reservoirs were built to ensure there was a supply of water as well as sanitary and administrative facilities. Anuradhapura continued to be the country's capital for well over 1,000 years but became weak due to invasions from South India and was finally overthrown by the invading South Indian Chola forces. The capital was then moved to Polonnaruwa.

Anuradhapura is world famous for its well-preserved ruins which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also home to the world's oldest living tree, the Sri Maha Bodhiya, and is a place which is sacred to and venerated by Buddhists.

Areas such as Medawachchiya and Tantirimale in Anuradhapura District border on areas controlled by rebel forces of the LTTE. These areas contain Sri Lankan Army sub-camps where military personnel as well as home guards from local villages are based. Anuradhapura Town has a main Army camp. Women and girl children conduct prostitution

for army personnel and home guards in villages and hutments in these border areas as well as in Anuradhapura Town.

Anuradhapura at a Glance:

Total population: 745.7*

Male: 380.5*

Female: 365.2*

Population density: 112**

Biggest age group: 15-19 years, population 38,924*

DS divisions: 22

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Research Areas in Anuradhapura:

Anuradhapura Town, Tantirimale, Thambuttegama, Medawachchiya, Saliyapura and Padaviya.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

The study found the commercial sexual exploitation of girls in the target area, but there was limited evidence of the exploitation of boys. According to law enforcement officers in the district although abuse, including sexual abuse, is prevalent and gets reported to them, no cases of trafficking have been reported. A variation of this view was held by Probation Officers of another area who said although a lot of sexual abuse and rape takes place there are no incidents of commercial sexual exploitation. However, another Probation Officer spoke of the trafficking of girls 16 to 18 years of age from near the border areas. According to this officer the girls get themselves boarded in houses in the town area, and the reason this practice has not come to light so far is because of the lack of support the officials get from the public to combat it.

A School Principal from a research area in the district was of the view that mothers going abroad had resulted in a high incidence of child abuse in the area, and ignorance and lack of awareness about the subject were also contributory factors. Incidents do not get reported to the police due to threats to the victims and their families from the perpetrators.

During discussions one of our researchers had with 'middlemen' involved in CSEC in Anuradhapura Town, he was informed that female children come to the town from far off areas, including Kandy and Matale, to engage in prostitution, although occasionally girls from the town area also engage in prostitution. Girls who come to the town for tuition classes or to work in garment factories also engage in prostitution during the day. It is carried out during the day in houses which are empty due to the occupants going to work and not in guest houses. It is mostly done during the day, due to police vigilance at night.

Respondents claimed that there is a higher demand for girl children as they are submissive and it is difficult to wean them away from the industry due to the lucrative financial remuneration.

What can be gathered from the numerous accounts above is that Anuradhapura Town is a trafficking destination and could also be functioning as a transit point for trafficking children. It is clear from these accounts that girls come from far off places, get themselves boarded and engage in prostitution. Indications are that these girls come in search of jobs and when these are not forthcoming they turn to prostitution, which is mostly carried out during the day as the police are vigilant at night. However, large numbers of children are also known to leave by bus for Colombo and Kurunegela from Thambuttegama town. They leave in the morning and return at night. It is not known where they go.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

The Anuradhapura team reported 46 cases, all of girl children. Of these, nine were confirmed cases of trafficking with another case, from its description by the child involved, appearing to be trafficking. The information was obtained by speaking to the children themselves as well as respondents from an NGO and the police. The cases were reported between 2002 and November 2006.

Of the remaining cases, five cases involved CSEC while the rest involved various types of sexual abuse including sexual harassment, grave sexual abuse and rape. The majority of sexual abuse cases, 26 out of the 32, were cases of rape. In the majority of these cases the abuser was a male relative, invariably the father, step-father, grandfather or uncle. Where it was not a family member, it was some other person known to the child such as the boyfriend or neighbour. In a small number of cases the abuser was a stranger. In two of these cases the girls fell pregnant; one case involved the boyfriend and the other the uncle. When taking the CSEC and abuse cases together, the majority of the children involved had been to school.

Cross Border Trafficking Cases Identified:

Researchers became aware of two incidents of trafficking which resulted in two girls being trafficked across borders, one to Lebanon and the other to Singapore. The girl trafficked to Lebanon has not been in contact with her family since the armed conflict between Lebanon and Israel in 2006. At the time of writing, her family does not know if she is alive or dead.

Lebanon Case:

This series of events started in 2004. Both girl A and B were 15 years of age. Once a year, a large *pinkama* (Buddhist religious event) is held in Thantirimale Temple. This is also an area where a Sri Lankan Army Camp is located. Girl A, with her neighbour and friend, girl B, went to the festival and became friendly with some soldiers. They subsequently went to the nearby jungle with two soldiers where they had sexual intercourse. On their way home they got lost and were unable to find their way back to the village. Girl B's mother alerted the police that the girls were missing. The police, with the help of villagers, searched for the girls. Eventually, after two days, they were found in the jungle. Following their location they were remanded in custody and released after a short time.

Upon their return home both girls were ostracised by the villagers because of their actions with the soldiers. The girls were then introduced to a trafficker by a fellow villager. Both girls were taken to Kelaniya by the trafficker and both ended up working as sex workers. After a period the police raided the brothel they were working in and both were remanded in custody. Upon their release, girl A went to Lebanon, where it is believed she still remains. She was assisted by an overseas employment agency, and secured employment as a 'domestic worker'. It is suspected by villagers and respondents that she is working as a sex worker. Furthermore, it is suspected she was assisted to travel with a false passport and identity documents, misrepresenting her true age. Girl B subsequent became involved in a murder and has been imprisoned.

Singapore Case:¹¹

The following case was reported by shelter home staff and happened some time ago. A girl from Dambulla, who is currently a resident of the shelter home, at the age of 14 had a sexual relationship with her boyfriend. He subsequently introduced her to his friends, who also engaged in sexual intercourse with her. It is not known if there was an exchange of money for this. One of her boyfriend's friends trafficked her to Colombo and facilitated contact with a foreign employment agency. This agency is known to send people to Singapore, including children. It is believed she was sexually abused by the agency owner before her departure. The agency owner arranged illegal travel and identity documents to change her age to an adult and sent her to Singapore.

Upon her arrival in Singapore her receiver and handler also had sex with her. The girl was eventually sent to a brothel in Singapore where she was forced into the sex industry. Due to her youth there was a great demand for her and she made a lot of money for the brothel and her captors. The girl did not receive any of the money she earned. After a period, she returned to Sri Lanka and lived with the boy who initially introduced her to the agency. He subsequently became involved in a robbery and the police arrested him and the girl. During the justice process the girl was sent to Welikada Prison and eventually to the Shelter Home.

Refer to Annex D for details of the trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

The team conducted six FGDs, all of them with children between the ages of 12 and 17. The majority were with children who were in Children's Homes on Court Orders. During these FGDs it became evident that the majority of the children knew what type of abuse could befall children, including sexual abuse and exploitation, and thought it was normal activity. Others, even though they had heard of it, did not have a clear understanding of what it entailed. They had heard about it on TV, radio and via gossip. Except for six, none of the children knew what trafficking was until it was explained to them. Although three children who had been trafficked also took part in FGDs, significantly they were not aware what trafficking was but were able to relate it to their experiences. Those who were going

¹¹ A publication produced by the NGO Lawyers for Human Rights Development in Sri Lanka on the trafficking of women and girls in Sri Lanka makes reference to the frequency of this type of case. Sri Lankan nationals can travel to Singapore on a 28-day visa without a letter of introduction or the need of a sponsor. There is also a healthy underground network in Colombo to facilitate false passports and identity cards.

to school had a greater awareness about child sexual abuse and exploitation but not necessarily trafficking.

It was not surprising therefore that the majority of the children who took part in the FGDs had no knowledge of trafficking routes. One child said Colombo without it even having to be explained what trafficking was. After an explanation was given, the children named the following as districts well known for trafficking: Anuradhapura, Colombo, Matale, Galle, Tangalle and Kekirawe. They said that children are kept in hotels, private houses, unoccupied houses, brothels and tunnels in these areas.

Respondents were unable to clearly define trafficking routes although information implies that Anuradhapura Town is, as well as a destination, a transit point to wherever the children are being trafficked from the district. Also, girls who come from areas such as Polonnaruwa to work in the Free Trade Zone in Colombo often end up in Anuradhapura when promised jobs do not materialise. Our researchers got to know from older prostitutes that there are children operating as prostitutes, due to the demand for them.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers:

The children named the following as traffickers or persons complicit in CSEC: parents, teachers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles (including men married to their aunts), three wheeler drivers and neighbours.

Abusers included: male family members, army personnel (especially in areas such as Navodagama and Tantirimale, which are close to LTTE controlled areas), *mudalalis* (merchants), boyfriends, hoteliers, guest house owners and pimps. Some children even mentioned the LTTE.

Protectors:

There were many people whom the children felt they were able to turn to for protection from trafficking and abuse. They mentioned Police Officers, School Principals, teachers, village leaders, parents, siblings, human rights organisations, relations, priests, friends, neighbours, midwives, law courts, the matron of the Children's Home, Grama Seva Niladaris, Justice of the Peace, and Child Rights Protection Officers (CRPOs).

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

The children felt that some children got trafficked while others did not was due to parents' and children's lack of awareness and understanding about the issue, being deprived of parental love and protection, and poverty which results in the parents selling their child, especially when the mother goes abroad to work. The influence of friends, night visits to neighbouring homes to watch TV, and children being unable to control their emotions and acting carelessly were also seen as reasons. They felt that children who were self-respectful and obedient got trafficked less. Some were of the view that villagers attacking the trafficker and the police arresting the trafficker were also deterrents.

Push/Pull Factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors for girls being trafficked or entering prostitution:

- Beauty or good looks
- Poverty
- Behaviour
- Ignorance
- Rape by a family member
- Cheated with the promise of a good job when the child has been deserted by a boyfriend
- Age (young and immature)
- Nationality
- Not having parents and parental neglect. For example, when both parents drink the children do not like it and have a tendency to get involved with those from whom they feel they can get love and affection. As well, migration of parents to other areas in search of jobs.

In areas such as Tantirimale, close to LTTE controlled areas where there is a significant military presence, the girls in the nearby villages have love affairs with the soldiers and get raped by them. This type of activity is attributed mostly to the soldiers being away from their partners. It is a similar scenario in the Anuradhapura Temple precincts as well, where there are home guards. Tantirimale is also an area where many under-aged marriages take place.

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- Lure of jobs in the town centre
- The ability to make significant sums of money without too much difficulty

Community Attitudes Towards Sexually Abused and Exploited Children:

Respondents said that when children leave CST/CSEC and return to their villages, the transition was not easy and that their futures were bleak. The general reaction towards the children when they returned to their villages is one of contempt and condemnation as they are not seen as victims but as the perpetrators of the crime. A trafficked or abused child is isolated from the community as well as from her peers, because parents do not want their children to associate with the child. A girl's prospects of marriage are limited and the threat of destitution is high. There was also concern that the men who marry abused women might use these women again for the same purpose. There is even a possibility that the child will be killed. Respondents stated that the number of children who return home therefore is reducing and when they do not go home, they end up in the care of the Probation Department, in orphanages, or they go abroad.

Links to the Tsunami:

With regard to the tsunami having a bearing on children being trafficked into CST and CSEC, information was received about children who had been washed ashore being kidnapped, raped and sold, as well as children who had lost their parents having being taken away with the promise of employment. However, this information could not be verified.

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

All the FGDs with children commenced with a discussion on child rights, about which the children had various ideas. They asked for help in protecting these rights. They were also keen to study and do a job, especially those who did not want to go back to their villages. They requested books to study, English lessons, and computer and vocational training. They asked for help with finding employment, but pointed out that this on its own would not suffice and that they would need assistance to continue with the job. Those wanting better living conditions asked for help to build a house with pipe-borne water. For some, the request was simple – help to go home and be reunited with their family. They also appealed for control of the sale and use of drugs such as *ganja* (marijuana) and the consumption of alcohol, as they saw these as being reasons for abuse.

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Provision of employment
- Awareness about self-protection so that no one can approach them
- Marry and have a good family life
- Secure family environment with good parent-child relationships. The main reason given for dysfunctional families was the mother going abroad for foreign employment. This should be avoided as well as the father should be prevented from consuming alcohol. Since neighbours are known to traffic children, having good relations with them could minimise the risk.
- Minimise the migration of children to the city

COLOMBO DISTRICT

Colombo, situated in the Western Province, has a total land area of 676 sq. km and a history dating back to around the 5th century. The country's largest city, it became the capital of Sri Lanka after the British ousted the Dutch in 1815. The suburb of Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte became its administrative capital and since 1982, the Parliament of Sri Lanka has been based here.

Colombo has 23 sq. km of inland waters and its strategically-placed natural harbour has been a popular port with many maritime traders, including Arab, Chinese and Roman, for more than 2,000 years. Today Colombo's popularity as a commercial centre has also made it the country's commercial capital.

Colombo at a Glance:

Total population: 2,251.3*

Male: 1151.4*

Female: 1099.9*

Population density: 3330**

Largest age group: 20-24 years, population 251,587*

DS divisions: 13

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Area of Research in Colombo: Fort, Pettah, Kollupitiya, Bambalapitiya, Moratuwa, Dehiwela, Mt. Lavinia, Ratmalana, Mattakuliya and Borella.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

Colombo is clearly both a transit point and final destination for CSEC and CST. It is difficult to clearly identify an area as being a focal point as there appears to be pockets of activity. In some of the cases of trafficking discovered during the course of the research the girls either ended up in or went through Ratmalana, Kelaniya, Colombo or Moratuwa.

Street children and child prostitutes, both male and female, were active in and around Colombo. Street children were found in the Fort area, including the railway station, Pettah and Maradana. The children get on trains at the railway station and beg, sing or sell leather goods. They are also known to engage in sexual activities with adults. Similar activities take place on buses where children board the buses to sell goods or entertain the passengers by singing. These street children were also seen frequenting video parlours in the Pettah area.

The signs of CSEC were visible on the beaches of Galle Face and Mt. Lavinia. School children were spotted hanging about on the beach in the Mt Lavinia area. According to resource persons, garment factory girls also visit the Mt Lavinia beaches to engage in prostitution. Our researchers estimated their ages to be between 17 and 18 years. However sometimes it was difficult to distinguish between a prostitute and a lover as many of the girls would pose as lovers.

Prostitutes were seen operating around the private bus stands at Gunasinghapura and Pettah but it was difficult to ascertain their ages. Child prostitution was taking place in lodges in Panchikawatte and Gunasinghapura in the Fort area. Some of the children were reportedly being supplied from Kollupitiya.

The researchers held a FGD in an organisation where there were about 80 children who had been sexually abused. Here it became evident that children who were subjected to sexual abuse were from outside of Colombo, especially from areas such as Anuradhapura, Avissawella and Kuliyaipitiya. The children came to the city in search of jobs but ended up in CSEC. The children got into prostitution because of their ignorance and also because they felt they had to 'live the experience'. Interestingly, this was the first time the latter was given as a push factor. This was confirmed by a CRPO in the district, who said that children engaged in CSEC in Colombo are not normally residents of Colombo but have come from outside areas. The contact was invariably someone known to the child. This was also the case with abuse. There were at least three girls in the home who had been raped by their fathers, with one girl having given birth to a child with birth defects. The involvement of the clergy in abusing children was also brought to light.

An analysis of the other FGDs held in Colombo reveal those children who get trafficked are those from remote villages with very little income. In addition to the above mentioned areas, children also came in search of jobs to the cities from Moneragala, Ratnapura and Embilipitiya and get trafficked. Children were also reportedly sold to Taiwanese gem merchants. The abuser was invariably someone known to the child. In the above case it was the father who was the abuser whereas in another home where a FGD was held, it was the step-father who had been responsible for the abuse.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

Several police stations in the district said although child sexual abuse is reported, no cases of trafficking had been reported. Police Officers said that they never brought a charge of trafficking against the trafficker, instead always opting to bring a charge of rape or sexual abuse.

The research team identified five cases of trafficking which has occurred in Colombo District. Four of these cases were girls and one was a boy. The cases were reported between 2002 and November 2006. One was a case where a girl (age unknown) from Moratuwa was raped by her step-father who thereafter sold her to a three wheeler driver in Mt. Lavinia. The police arrested him whilst he was trying to traffic the girl on Mt. Lavinia beach. Further details of this case are unavailable, except that the child is now in a Children's Home.

Another case was of a girl from Kuliypitiya who was trafficked by her boyfriend's friend and ended up working in a brothel in Colombo.

In the third case, reported from a Children's Home, an eleven-year-old boy was trafficked from (Kaduruwela) Polonnaruwa to Pettah. The boy had been forced to take drugs by three wheeler drivers at Kaduruwela station and then subjected to CSEC after which he was brought to Pettah and sold. The mother played a big role in the child's current predicament. This information was obtained from the child who is now suffering from a sexually transmitted disease and who displays abnormal behaviour. No further information was obtainable.

In the fourth case, a girl was trafficked from Ratnapura through Ratmalana to Kiribathgoda. No other information is available on this case. A fifth case was reported to the Colombo research team who were unable to obtain detailed information as they did not have sufficient time to build a relationship with the resource.

The Colombo team came across many cases of sexual abuse, of which a record has not been made here.

Refer Annex D for details of trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

Community leaders, staff in Children's Homes, and slum community members had no knowledge or awareness of trafficking although they all knew what sexual abuse was. Probation Officers and Police Officers knew what trafficking and abuse was.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers:

Respondents identified parents, step-parents and three wheeler drivers as traffickers or persons complicit in CSEC.

Among abusers identified by the respondents, in the majority of cases these were male persons known to the child, such as fathers, step-fathers or boy friends.

Protectors:

Police Officers, Probation Officers and teachers were all seen as being protectors by the children during the FGDs.

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

Children from poor families and those families where there was no knowledge and awareness of trafficking were seen as being more vulnerable to trafficking. A secure home environment with parental love and attention, parent's knowledge and awareness of trafficking, and parents' economic ability to meet their children's needs would reduce the risk of children getting trafficked.

The following are a comprehensive list of reasons provided during FGDs with staff in Children's Homes, as well as children and elders in tsunami camps: abject poverty, mother working abroad, limited access to education and/or illiteracy of parents, inability to control one's feelings, and society's lack of interest in the subject.

Push/Pull Factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors:

- Mother going abroad for employment
- Low literacy
- Poverty
- Community/family ostracising a returning child

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- Ability to earn an easy income

Community Attitudes Towards Sexually Abused and Exploited Children:

Such children are invariably stigmatised and isolated from the community. They feel they have no future and therefore the risk of re-entry to CSEC is very high.

Links to the Tsunami:

The Colombo research team held two FGDs in tsunami camps during which they were made aware of the sexual and verbal abuse that children in these camps are subjected to. Members of the security forces were reportedly involved in sexual activities with 'young girls' in these camps. No links with the research topic could be established.

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Conduct awareness programmes for parents
- Children's societies
- Welfare programmes
- Guidance and counselling for children in tsunami camps

DAMBULLA (Dambulla Division) (Matale District)

Situated 148 km from Colombo, Dambulla in Matale District has a land area (excluding a large inland water area) of 456.3 sq. km. Dambulla is famed for its rock temple and paintings and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991. Dambulla is equally well known for its economic centre conveniently situated close to the confluence of major roads to Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Matale. Here, produce such as fruits, vegetables and pulses from surrounding villages are brought and sold. Merchants and businessmen come here to buy the produce, usually wholesale, before taking them for distribution and sale to far off places such as Ratnapura, Welimada and Colombo. The economic centre has also brought Dambulla recognition as a place where sex with women and children is freely available. Businessmen coming to the economic centre and engaging in sex with prostitutes has led to the spawning of a thriving sex industry.

Dambulla at a Glance:

Total population: 441.3*

Male: 220.1*

Female: 221.3*

Population density: 226**

Biggest age group: 15-19 years, population 44,763*

DS divisions: 11

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Area of Research in Dambulla:

Athuparayaya, Rathmalgahaela, Dambulla Town, Nawapadeniya, Madatugama, Sigiriya, Inamaluwa, Matale and Kandy.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

From interviews with Probation Officers and a CRPO it became evident that Dambulla town, including the economic centre, is considered a place for the sexual exploitation of children. Children come from villages surrounding the town as well as from far away.

This sentiment was echoed during a FGD with teachers from a school in the Dambulla area who were of the opinion that growth of the economic centre had brought both good and bad things over the last five years. 'This disaster started five years ago,' said one person during the course of the discussion. They pointed out how gangs of unemployed and illiterate youth loiter about with cigarettes in their mouths and were a bad influence on school-going children who join them after school. These youths get friendly with girls from the surrounding villages and pimp the girls.

They explained how their indulgence in drugs motivated them into thieving, teasing girls, raping and pimping. It was clear that the respondents were concerned at the perceived deterioration of morality. 'They will even sell their sister,' an informant said. Participants felt the need for good parent-child relationships from a child's young age and the need for the economic up-lifting and development of the community

There are reportedly 70 hotels and guest houses in the area of which some are unauthorised, and where it is believed that most of these illegal practices take place. These venues are seen as responsible for the spawning of the sexual exploitation of children, both girls and boys. Participants stated there are professional sex workers in Dambulla city. Although they are adults now, they have been involved in the industry as children and could very well have been victims of trafficking and/or sexual abuse themselves.

During a field observation of the economic centre by one of the researchers, it became evident that the economic centre was a sex hotspot. Our researcher spoke with three wheeler drivers and it became clear that they were a major conduit for the thriving sex industry in the economic centre. According to a conversation he had with a three wheeler driver, the women and children came to the economic centre for prostitution from Anuradhapura and Matale. Some of them get boarded in homes in the area and are taken to designated guest houses. The three wheeler drivers take clients to the guest houses where they know the women and children operate. The three wheeler driver whom our researcher spoke to said he could supply a child in 15 minutes. During the research what became evident is that the proprietors or managers of the hotels or guest houses where these activities take place always use the girls first. What can also be established is that the hotel/guest house proprietors and three wheeler drivers are together in this modus operandi. Halfway through our research one of these guest houses was raided by the police and seven women and one child were arrested and produced in court on a charge of prostitution. The women and child were released on the provision of bail by the proprietor/manager of the hotel. Following this, prostitution in the area has taken a low profile although it still does take place.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

The study team identified three cases of trafficking and four cases of sexual abuse from Dambulla. However, save for one case of trafficking and one case of abuse, the others have not been included in this report as the information was given by the villagers themselves with no official corroboration. These incidents took place between 2002 and November 2006. Details of the trafficking case were obtained by speaking with the child as well as the police.

In the trafficking case, the girl was initially raped by a boyfriend when she was 14 years old. Subsequently she met another boy, with whom she started an affair and to whom she had mentioned the rape. The boy then sold her to a guest house near the economic centre for Rs. 2,500, having taken her there on the pretext of visiting the Dambulla temple. In the guest house, he had raped her and over a four-month period she had been sexually exploited by 120 men. She was eventually released after police raided the guest house.

In the abuse case, the details of which were given by a Grama Sevaka, the girl was raped by her grandfather when she was about 13 years of age. The girl's aunt, who was also the principal of a local school, took her away from the village until she had the baby. The baby was given away after birth and the girl resumed her schooling. The baby's whereabouts are not known and the matter was never reported to the police.

Refer Annex D for details of trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

Although community members knew what child sexual abuse was, their knowledge and awareness pertaining to trafficking was negligible. However, officials such as Probation Officers, Police Officers and CRPOs had knowledge and awareness of the subject. The community had not had any exposure to the subject of trafficking before. Very few NGOs operate in Dambulla.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers:

Among traffickers or persons complicit in CSEC, three wheeler drivers in the economic centre play a big role in providing access to children for clients, while guest house and hotel operators/proprietors can be said to receive incomes from their prostitution. The abusers, however, were in most cases someone known to the child.

Protectors:

Police and Probation Officers.

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

Ignorance of parents and children about the subject

Parental illiteracy

School drop-outs

Under-aged marriages

Economic difficulties

Mother being abroad

Push/Pull factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors:

- Parental irresponsibility

- Child's lack of awareness about trafficking and abuse
- Mother being abroad
- Child being raped by her boyfriends
- Girl physically attractive
- If the parents work long hours away from home, this reduces the parental protection of the child
- Isolation of a returned girl if she is living at home, either because she is left alone when her parents go to work, and because she has no friends because other parents do not allow their children to associate with her. This isolation could lead her into being trafficked or sexually exploited again.

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- Easy way to earn money
- If the child lives close to the place of the initial exploitation, pimps and others in sex work could lure her back into prostitution

Community Attitude Towards Trafficked/Abused Children:

Two FGDs were held in the community where the trafficked girl came from. The community is extremely negative towards victims of trafficking/abuse. Respondents said that the victim however can win back their respect if she can engage in some activity where she can establish her self worth, such as sewing for the community. While it was felt that parents, relations and friends should be responsible for what happened to the child, it was also felt that the girl herself should bear responsibility for what had happened to her because of her ignorance. The participants felt that poverty and the mother not being present (mother was abroad) were the reasons for the child having had to face what she did.

Although the villagers had not been aware of trafficking taking place in their area before this incident, they are keen for measures to be taken to prevent a recurrence of such an incident. They felt that educating the community and strengthening their economic conditions could result in the avoidance of such incidents, as they felt that lack of money was the main root of the problem.

In a FGD with the girl's peers, the respondents had mixed feelings about her predicament. While there were feelings of sympathy there was also blame, saying the girl was notorious and that eventually it became an easy way of earning money. They felt she was being ostracized because parents do not want their children to keep her company. These girls had no knowledge about sexual exploitation until the incident and felt they should be made aware of it.

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Assist parents with income generation
- Provide facilities for children to attend school

- Educate the community about trafficking/abuse
- Provide economic support to the community
- Ensure that children have continuous education
- Make children aware of how to escape from an exploitative environment

GALLE DISTRICT

Galle in the Southern Province is situated 119 km south of Colombo and is Sri Lanka's fourth largest town. It has a total land area of 1,652 sq. km of which 1,617 sq. km is land and 35 sq. km are inland waters. Galle port was the most prominent port before the Colombo port was developed by the British, and was popular with Greek, Arab and Chinese traders. Galle Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The sandy beaches of some areas of Galle, such as Hikkaduwa and Unawatuna, have been a magnet for tourists, upon whom Galle is heavily dependent for its economy.

Galle District at a Glance:

Total population: 990.5*

Male: 481.8*

Female: 508.6*

Population density: 613**

Biggest age group: 15-19 years, population 95,143*

DS divisions: 18

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Research Areas in Galle: Hikkaduwa, Unawatuna (Rumassala), Galle Town, Koggala, Habaraduwa, Maththaka, Elpitiya, Neluwa, Ambalangoda, Balapitiya and Ahungalla.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

Galle is a tourist area, and has been known for child sex tourism, particularly for the sexual exploitation of boys by foreign tourists. Contrary to common perception, CST was not seen as being an issue by either community members or government officials. They felt this had been a problem several years ago, but with the timely intervention of relevant authorities and especially NGOs, who had initiated programmes to combat the problem, they were confident it was under control. During an interview with law enforcement officers of one police station in the district it was revealed that although there was a belief that Hikkaduwa was popular for CST, the number of cases reported to the police and produced in court are very few. Respondents stated that although it was widespread in the 1980s and 1990s, its

occurrence is greatly reduced at present. However, they acknowledged it could be taking place in secret.

This was the same view found during a discussion with members of the public, including a three wheeler driver, a child and a few adults, in the Unawatuna beach area. Respondents said that although CST and CSEC did not take place in the open, it could be taking place in secret.

According to information gathered during field interviews it became evident that most of the child abuse is reported from the following areas: Neluwa, Yakkalamulla, Udugama, Balapitiya, Galagoda, Ooragaha, Wathugedera, Elpitiya, Ambalangoda, Pitigala, Singhadeevaragama, Delgahawatte, Kataluwa fisher village, Ahangama, Kurunduwatte and Unawatuna.

There was a clear consensus among doctors, CRPOs and Probation Officers as to why children fall victim to sexual abuse and or trafficking. Among the reasons given were children not having parental protection. This occurs especially if the mother goes abroad for employment and leaves the children with the father or extended family. As well, children are not provided protection when parents go to work as labourers in the cinnamon industry or on tea estates, leaving their children alone at home. Children in such circumstances are vulnerable to abuse by relatives, neighbours and friends. The father's alcoholism was seen as another reason, with matters being made worse by the presence of friends who could also be drunk and abuse the child. Other reasons given were the lack of reproductive health education amongst students of grades 8-10 (14-16 year age group) and the susceptibility of children living in slums to drugs.

The situation in areas adjacent to tea estates such as Udugama, Neluwa, Elpitiya and Tawalama illustrates the high vulnerability of children to sexual abuse in the home and community. People live in huts, slums and line houses, and the level of education is low. Parents are ignorant about the subjects of abuse and trafficking. There is excessive consumption of illicit liquor among the adults. Parents go to work on the plantations leaving their children at home. The older children don't go to school because they have to look after their younger siblings. The older children get abused by relatives and neighbours. These children are also sent away to work in hotels and shops where they then fall victim to sexual abuse and rape. The incidence of children going to work as domestics in houses in the cities, which used to be seen as a problem, is now reducing.

The Galle team conducted five FGDs, three of which were in Children's Homes.

The ages of the children ranged from five to 18. There were 28 child participants. The children were in the homes for a variety of reasons. A small number were remanded for petty crimes like stealing a bracelet. The majority, however, were incarcerated for reasons ranging from the absurd to the bizarre, which warrant mention. One child was in the home because he ran away from a domestic labour situation, another had been beaten by his mother and handed over to the police for not looking after his siblings, another was in the home for begging in the bus stand, and another for singing in the bus stand. One child was in the home for not going to school, and another child was accused of stealing money which he himself was given by his parents for a birthday party. A boy who ran away from his home also ended up in the home, as well as a boy whose father cut his leg after he came home drunk. A boy implicated for stealing Rs.3,000 from an uncle was also found in one of the homes.

Although none of these children had yet been victims of trafficking or sexual abuse, their fractured and insecure backgrounds can be seen as making them extremely vulnerable to future trafficking and sexual abuse. They hated society for keeping them incarcerated for minor offences. The majority of children, seven out of nine in one home, wanted to go home, study and find a job. What they wanted most was to see their mothers. Overall, those who were not attending school wanted to go to school and to be able to do jobs. Their future was uncertain.

During another FGD with counsellors working with female factory workers in the Investment Promotion Zone in Koggala, it came to light that most of the workers are girls from areas such as Akuressa, Deniyaya, Matara and Hambantota who come for jobs after they have completed their O/levels. They secure employment by concealing their true age. Their living conditions are poor and they are paid a low salary. When the money they earn is insufficient they reportedly engage in prostitution, although this has not been substantiated. According to the information given, they begin their relationships with managers and supervisors before moving on to relationships with others.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

In Galle, as in the other districts, the majority of trafficking cases are not identified and filed by the police as being cases of trafficking because it is considered that they originate from sexual abuse, usually rape, and therefore the incident is filed as rape.

According to information received from at least three police stations in the district, no cases of trafficking had been reported in the last six months. Respondents at one police station stated that no cases of trafficking had been reported in the last two years. However, they acknowledged that trafficking does take place even though it does not get reported. What had been reported in the last two years had all been cases of abuse, mostly rape, as well as abduction, involving children between five and 16 years of age. Probation Officers shared the same opinion that trafficking cases were usually recorded as rape.

When a child has been abused it is not reported to the police and the matter comes to a halt and does not proceed to the courts. Among the reasons given for not reporting abuse is that the families do not have money to spend on trips to the police station and courts, and that parents receive threats and pressure from influential persons to forget the incident.

The cases identified by the research team were predominantly girl children. Information pertaining to the cases in Galle was obtained from Children's Homes and NGOs. As well, details of a large number of cases were given by a government official. The cases were reported between 2002 and November 2006.

There were two cases of trafficking reported from the Galle District, although the details of one are obscure. There were five cases of CSEC and 39 cases of sexual abuse, of which at least 15 were cases of rape. Of the cases of rape, in nine cases the rapist was known to the child. In seven of these cases, the child was raped by the father. Among the 15 rape cases, two children fell pregnant. While it is not known if one child went ahead with the pregnancy and had the baby, in the other, where the father was the rapist, the child had the baby. This child now lives on the street. Unlike in districts like Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, the researchers were unable to get detailed information pertaining to the background of the children such as whether they had an education.

In one of the trafficking cases, the child concerned is currently 11 years old. He is originally from Kataragama and from a poor family. The mother is present, but is not interested in

the welfare of her four children. The father had left the family and remarried. When the child was begging in the Kataragama area, he had been approached by an individual whose details cannot be ascertained and taken to an institution similar to a Children's Home, called the Guneratne Bauddha Madyasthanaya (Guneratne Buddhist Centre), in Minuwangoda in the Galle area. This institution is run by a Buddhist monk. Although there is no evidence that the child had been sold, this appeared to be the case when the facts of his case were analysed. The Galle Police, acting on information that the monk was abusing children, arrested him. Reportedly he was arrested while engaged in the act of selling children for sex. The children were placed in Children's Homes upon order of the court. The child is reluctant to return to his mother. A *mudalali* (merchant) offered the mother Rs. 5,000 to withdraw the case against the monk. Since this case is currently before the Galle Court it is difficult to get information. The other children who were with this child are in other Children's Homes, including one home in Hikkaduwa.

The second trafficking case involves a girl, now 15. She lived with her father and step-mother, who looked after her and her two younger brothers. She studied up to class 7. A retired nurse took her from her home (saying that the child was doing nothing at home) and handed her over to a doctor, who in turn passed her on to a friend in Kegalle to work as a domestic servant. While living in this house, a man took her to Galle and thereafter to Hikkaduwa. She was taken into police custody while waiting at a bus stop. She had money at the time of her arrest which led to the conclusion that she has been trafficked and sexually exploited.

Refer Annex D for details of trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

Officers such as Probation Officers, Police Officers, CRPOs and others who have dealings with children had some knowledge of trafficking, although most of this knowledge was in relation to trafficking which took place externally. However there was a lack of knowledge among school teachers. Most ordinary members of the public did not know what trafficking was. Nearly all of the respondents knew about sexual abuse.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers:

Regarding traffickers or persons complicit in CSEC, the persons identified by respondents were usually someone known to the child, such as a boyfriend. The abusers were identified as relatives, neighbours or friends.

Protectors:

The children knew they could complain to the police, Grama Sevaka, neighbours, parents, relatives, friends or a sibling in the face of harassment or when encountering similar problems. They said they could also get help from teachers, the NCPA, Probation Officers, police and UNICEF.

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

Lack of parental protection due to the mother going overseas for employment.

Lack of parental protection due to parents going to work on the plantations

Lack of reproductive health education

Push/Pull Factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors:

- Parental neglect
- Gullibility of parents and children
- Low salaries
- Boredom: children have nothing to do after work
- Freedom: village girls coming to town and submit to negative influences
- Poverty

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- Money

Community Attitude Towards Abused/Trafficked Children

There is no acceptance by parents of their children who have been in this predicament. They shun the child, saying that the child has brought shame on the family. Even when the children are in Children's Homes, parents prefer not to maintain contact with their children, especially when there are other siblings as parents feel their behaviour could also be influenced.

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Provide library and computing facilities
- English lessons
- Provide accommodation facilities
- Training for self-employment, in view of garment factory closures
- Awareness programmes on AIDS and STIs
- Vocational training
- Music lessons

GAMPAHA DISTRICT

Gampaha District is situated in the Western Province, to the north of Colombo. It has a total land area of 1,387 sq. km, of which 1,341 sq. km is land and 46 sq. km are inland waters. Perhaps the most well-known place in the district is seaside town of Negombo,

one of Sri Lanka's primary tourist resorts. The district also has the country's biggest international airport.

Gampaha District at a Glance:

Total population: 2063.7*

Male: 1007.7*

Female: 1056.0*

Population density: 1539**

Biggest age group: 20-24 years, population 228,853*

DS divisions: 13

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Area of Research in Gampaha:

Ja-ela, Seeduwa, Kattuwa, Dalupotha, Fathimawatte, Palangathurai, Portuthota-Kammalthara, Peliyagoda, Katumayake, Palangathurai, Eththukala, Pitipana, Daluwa-Kotuwa, Palansena, Kochchikade, Makola, Ranmuthugala, Kelaniya temple precinct and Munnakara.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

Negombo has long been a popular area with tourists. The area along the coast from Eththukala to Palangathurai is known for its sandy beaches and plethora of tourist hotels and guest houses. It is also an area which has a reputation for child sex tourism, especially the availability of boys for sex. Several high-profile court cases of foreign sexual abusers has brought Negombo international notoriety.

The sex tourism industry in Negombo is primarily focused on boy prostitution, although the study team also found incidents of the sexual exploitation of girls. Sex tourists come to the area during the tourist season, which is from November to February. As well, long-term abusers rent houses in the area throughout the year. The children are usually introduced to the tourists by a third party, usually a three wheeler driver or a tour guide. Young boys in prostitution also benefit financially from introducing their friends to foreigners. At other times the children get lured directly by the foreigners when they are on the beach.

“The issue here is not poverty. The people in this community are able to buy all the modern gadgets their children want. However the issue here is that parents don't care about what their children do”.

FGD participant from the fishing community in Palangathurai, Negombo

According to a group of government officials in the Palangathurai area, incidents of child abuse are common in the area. The area beyond Kudapaduwa in Negombo is famous for CST and the reason why tourists frequent the area. According to the respondents, the tourists go in search of children, who are introduced to them through three wheeler drivers or tour guides. Parents encourage their children to associate with tourists because of monetary and other benefits such as houses and vehicles. This association is seen by the parents as something which is normal. Some give their daughters in marriage to foreigners.

During a FGD with a local fishing community, it was once again pointed out that Negombo was an area where a lot of children get friendly with tourists. The tourists reportedly rent private houses where they know there are children, although it is not always with the intention of abusing the children. They too were of the view that it is the three wheeler drivers and tour guides who were the conduits. The respondents claimed that the implementation of the law was poor. The respondents stated that the police, when tipped off about illicit operations, give details of the respondents to the operators, thereby putting the respondents' lives in danger.

FGDs carried out with staff and children of Children's Homes in Gampaha District, illustrated Sri Lanka's problems with the institutionalization of children. Gampaha District has the most well-known Remand and Certified Schools. There is a Remand Home and Certified School for girls and a Certified School for boys in the district. The Remand Home is in Kottawa. As with the homes in the Galle District, most children were in the homes for what could be viewed as mundane reasons, many having committed no crime at all. The children often remain in the homes for many years, most until they reach 18 years of age. At the end of their remand period, most of the children are taken back home by their parents. The Probation Department finds guardians for those children whom the parents do not want to take back home. According to staff members, both the central and provincial governments conduct psycho-social counselling for children, awareness-raising programmes for both children and teachers, and teacher training.

The presence of CSEC and CST was confirmed during interviews with three wheeler drivers, boutique owners and people on the street. According to these individuals, CSEC is prevalent in Negombo, Wattala, Ja-ela and Peliyagoda. According to members of the community, boy children, colloquially known as 'beach boys', get involved with male foreigners who go to the beach. There has also been an increase of older female foreign tourists taking male 'companions' during their holiday. Boys are also used by foreign male paedophiles to act as 'tour guides', taking them away to travel around the island.

Resource persons mentioned several guest houses where CSEC takes place, primarily for women and underage girls. Women and girls solicit in the restaurants and bars of the guest houses. They wear numbers which correspond to hotel rooms within the complex. When a client chooses a sex worker, he goes to the same hotel room number to meet the girl. There are also 'karaoke bars' in the vicinity of Negombo which provide access to young females for sexual activities. The client chats with the girls at the bar, chooses a girl and then arranges to meet her outside of the bar. The bars often have between three and 12 girls on offer, ranging in age from 14 to 23 years. No sex takes place in the bar or complex.

Children living close to small hotels and guest houses near the beach are drawn into prostitution because parents go to work and the children are left alone. This gives them an opportunity to get friendly with the tourists. Respondents noted that in Palangathurai parents are known to give their children to foreigners who in turn help the families.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

Although cases of sexual abuse as well as suicide have been reported, this was not the case with trafficking. Police Officers, Probation Officers and Samurdhi Officers stated that although trafficking into CSEC and CST could take place, it is not being reported.

A total of 40 cases were reported by the study team from Gampaha District, of which 12 were trafficking cases. Of the rest, one was a case of CSEC where the mother, herself a prostitute, prostituted her daughter. All the others were cases of sexual abuse, the exact details of which were unobtainable. The cases were reported between 2002 and November 2006.

Refer Annex D for details of trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

Community members, children and officials dealing with children, including Police Officers, had a low level of knowledge regarding trafficking.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers:

Traffickers or persons complicit in CSEC included three wheeler drivers, tour operators, and hotel and guest house employees. Among abusers were foreign sex tourists, local sex tourists, and male relatives.

Protectors:

Children identified parents, Police Officers, Probation Officers, School Principals, teachers and CRPOs as persons to whom they could go for protection from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

Parents being unaware of their children's activities and children not being educated on the subject.

Push/Pull Factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors:

- Family financial difficulties
- Living in an area popular with tourists
- Parental apathy and neglect. Parents are not bothered about how children get money. When the child takes home money given to him by a tourist for whatever reason, no questions are asked.
- Parents are detached from their children and children do not get any affection from their parents. This results in the children getting closer to tourists and others from whom they can get love and affection.

- Three wheeler drivers and tour guides are financially motivated to facilitate the prostitution of children.
- Parental work patterns deprive children of protection. The majority of the people in this area live off fishing and tourism. The men go to sea in the afternoon and return in early morning. They sleep during the day. The women go to the beach during the day to sell their wares, such as batik cloths and ornaments. The children are left unsupervised during the day and end up loitering on the beach, which makes them susceptible to advances from tourists.

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- The perception that it is easy to earn money by associating with tourists
- The lure of travelling to a foreign country
- The influence of peers who are already involved with tourists

Community Attitude Towards Trafficked/Abused Children:

The community does not look upon such children favourably. Some children are able to go home after spending time in the Children's Home if the surrounding community is not aware of their circumstances. If their past experiences are known, they are stigmatised by the community, and due to this they may go in search of jobs away from their homes. Due to community rejection, some of them re-enter the sex industry.

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Raise awareness on the consequences of sexual activities, especially among slum dwellers and children
- Provide psychosocial counselling for children
- Establish day-care centres for both girls and boys
- Provide awareness for adults in the community, especially the vulnerable community members and older children
- Establish child clubs

MATARA DISTRICT

Situated in the southernmost tip of the country, Matara District in the Southern Province is 160 km from Colombo. The district has a total land area of 1,283 sq. km, of which 1,270 sq. km is land and the rest are inland waters. The district is attractive to tourists, being an area of contrasts with beaches, tea and spice plantations, and a mountain range.

Matara at a Glance:

Total population: 761.4*

Male: 369.2*

Female: 392.1*

Population density: 600**

Biggest age group: 10-14 years, population 75,842*

DS divisions: 16

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Area of Research in Matara:

Polhena, Dickwella, Matara Town, Akuressa, Kekenadura and Deniyaya.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

Akuressa, Kottegodra, Nilwella, Dabagasara, Deniyaya and Kotapola were seen as areas where children are exploited commercially. Children from Akuressa, Kotapola and Deniyaya (the latter two being plantation areas) are sent to the cities to work as domestic labourers. Some of these children thereafter enter the sex industry either voluntarily or by force. However, the trend for the children of plantation workers to be taken to the city for domestic labour appears to be on the decline.

According to both government health officials and law enforcement officers in the district, there were no reported cases of CST, the latter being of the view that this was because Matara was not a place of attraction for foreign tourists. However, the health officials had come across cases of CST and CSEC when they conducted awareness-raising programmes on HIV/AIDS. Some law enforcement officials felt it did take place despite not being reported.

Health officials gave the names of four schools where there is child sexual abuse and an example of a school where the children engage in CST. In this school the children go to the beach after school and engage in sexual activities with foreign tourists. Although teachers from the school tried to intervene to stop the children from engaging in these activities they have been unsuccessful. These activities take place with the knowledge of the parents and small sums of money are paid to the children and or their families. Therefore it is more than likely that the parents don't discourage it because of the financial benefits involved.

The reasons given by respondents for this activity were premarital love affairs, economic difficulties, parental illiteracy and close proximity to tourist hotels, which had negative influences on the children. As in other districts, respondents noted lack of family protection as a key factor in the vulnerability of children to CSEC and CST. They particularly noted the absence of mothers, due to their having gone abroad for employment or being away to work in the plantations. The number of women from the district going abroad has increased this year compared to last year, according to the Matara branch of the Foreign Employment Bureau.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

Government health officials and law enforcement officers in the district were unanimous in saying that there had been no reported cases of trafficking or that the numbers of cases

reported were low. In 2003, a case of trafficking had been brought before the courts which had then determined it was not a case of trafficking. According to government officials cases of child trafficking do not get reported because most of the time the child is trafficked with the knowledge of the parents. The greatest number of abuse cases were reported from Weligama, Dickwella, Kotapola (Usamalagoda, Udagawahena, Horagola West and East) Matara, Deniyaya, Hakmana, Pittabaddera and Malimbada, with nine cases of abuse having been reported so far this year.

Thirteen cases were identified by the Matara researcher of this study. Five of the cases were CSEC and seven of the cases were of sexual abuse. Details of the cases were obtained from the health service, Swechcha Sewaya (a volunteer service in the village affiliated to the health service) and relevant government sources. The cases were reported between 2002 and November 2006.

Among the five identified cases of CSEC, one case clearly involved trafficking. In this case, the girl, who was 15 at the time of the incident in 2006, was raped by her boyfriend. He then took her from her home in Warella, Kotapola in Matara District to a hotel in Akuressa and sold her to two of his friends. She was kept in this hotel for six months until it was raided by the police. It is not known what the girl was doing in the hotel. Given the fact the hotel was raided indicates it would have been a place where sex was available. It is not known what child protection measures were in place while the child was in the exploitative environment. The girl left her exploitative environment after the police raided the hotel she was operating from. After she left this environment she was produced in court by the police and on the recommendations of the Probation Officers was sent to a Remand Home for girls. The child is no more in the Remand Home, and her whereabouts are unknown. It appears that it was the instability and lack of love and protection from the family which were instrumental for the child getting into the situation she was in. The study team also reported four cases of CSEC in which the children were not trafficked.

In all five cases of CSEC, someone known to the child had introduced them to prostitution. In two cases it was the mother. In one of these cases the mother, herself a prostitute, took her daughter away from the Children's Home she was in and introduced her to the sex industry. The daughter is now 17 and is working as a prostitute. In the other case, the mother prostituted her daughter to four men in her home in return for money, food items and other household necessities. In two other cases, the girls were introduced to the sex industry by their husbands. Both girls had married at 17. In both cases, the husbands initially introduced the girls to their friends after which the girls operated from hotels in Matara.

The remaining seven of the 13 cases reported by the study team were cases of rape. Five of the rape cases were from Oorumutta. During a FGD with the community, as well as the 'common reasons' given for sexual abuse, the respondents noted as reasons the under-aged marriage of children and the influence of family members who were sex workers.

Of the cases of rape, in four cases the abuser was someone known to the child. Of these, in two cases the perpetrator was the father and in one case the perpetrator was the uncle.

Refer Annex D for details of trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

Community members and government officials dealing with children (including Probation Officers, Police Officers, School Principals and teachers) knew about sexual abuse.

However, only government officials showed some knowledge and awareness about trafficking. Community members were completely ignorant of the subject.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers:

Among traffickers or persons complicit in CSEC, three wheeler drivers were mostly identified. The abusers identified were family members, such as fathers, brothers and other male family members, community members known to the child, or boyfriends. Because the villagers are alert to outsiders coming into the village, outsiders are rarely known as abusers.

Protectors:

Identified protectors included Police Officers, Probation Officers, some three wheeler drivers who were keen to combat trafficking and child sexual abuse, Grama Niladari, School Principals, teachers and health officials.

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

Poverty, but some families do not see it as being an issue.

Push/pull factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors:

- Dysfunctional families
- Poverty
- Close proximity to hotels
- Illiterate elders

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- Ability to earn money easily

Community Attitude Towards Children Who Have Been Trafficked/Abused:

The norm is for the community to reject a child who has faced these circumstances.

Links to the Tsunami:

Law enforcement officers claimed many cases of child sexual abuse were reported after the tsunami with the following reasons being cited: economic difficulties, insecurity, memory problems (children being unable to remember their parents and getting close to outsiders while they were living in tsunami camps).

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Awareness programmes for parents
- Awareness programmes for children on self protection
- Awareness programmes for teenagers on who to turn to when abuse takes place

POLONNARUWA DISTRICT

Polonnaruwa, in the North Central Province, is situated 216 km from Colombo and is the second most ancient city in Sri Lanka. It became the second capital of Sri Lanka after the earlier capital of Anuradhapura was destroyed by invaders from South India. It has a land extent of 3,077 sq. km with 216 sq. km of inland waters. Polonnaruwa is well known for its 2,500-year-old irrigation system of tanks and canals built by one of Sri Lanka's most illustrious kings, Parakramabahu. The area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982.

Polonnaruwa at a Glance:

Total population: 359.0*

Male: 87.8*

Female: 171.2*

Population density: 117**

Biggest age group: 15-19 years, population 36,954*

DS divisions: 7

* thousands

** population per sq. km

(Census year 2001, Department of Census and Statistics)

Geographical Area of Research in Polonnaruwa:

Medirigiriya, Ambagaswewa, Hingurakgoda, Nawanagaraya, Kaduruwela, Dalugana, Pallegodella, Dimbulagala, Minneriya, Girithale, Bakamuna, Elahera, Lankapura, Namalpokuna, Veheragala and Sungawila.

Situation of CSA, CSEC, CST and Child Trafficking:

The majority of the cases which came to the attention of the researchers were cases of sexual abuse, including rape, grave sexual abuse and indecent assault. These cases were presented despite the researchers not pursuing many cases which they came across after it became clear they were not cases of trafficking.

These findings were confirmed by relevant personnel from the district, including several Police Officers, a Grama Niladari and a Welfare Officer. The majority said there was sexual abuse, including child sexual abuse and child rape. Most respondents said there

was no trafficking in the area. However, at least one of these officials stated that trafficking is not reported, and this does not preclude trafficking from taking place. Although the majority did not give reasons for the presence of sexual abuse, one resource person said it was due to insecurity in the family. Only one officer from a local Probation and Child Care Office clearly stated that both trafficking and child abuse were prevalent in the district.

Identification and Reporting of Cases of CSA, CSEC and Trafficking:

The Polonnaruwa team identified 13 cases. The team obtained details from the police, Samurdhi Officer, community members and parents. All the cases relate to incidents which took place between 2002 and November 2006.

Of the 13 cases identified, two were cases of trafficking. In one case, reported from a Children's Home, a 10-year-old child had been trafficked by her father. Further details of this case could not be obtained.

Details of the other case of trafficking were provided by the girl's mother and another villager, following up on information given by the police. In this case, a girl was trafficked from Ambagaswewa in Polonnaruwa to Moratuwa by her boyfriend on the pretext of finding her a job in a garment factory. Once in Moratuwa she was handed over to another boy, from the same village as the girl, who then kept her in a boarding house and sold her for child sex. The girl got pregnant and had an abortion with the help of her mother. The community knows the trafficker, and while community members are more vigilant about his activities, they are afraid of him and his gang because he is a former soldier. The girl is reportedly working in a garment factory in Seeduwa and is now involved in the sale of children for commercial sex.

Nine of the remaining 11 cases were of rape. The children were aged between 12 and 16 years. In all but one of the rape cases, the children were raped by someone known to them including a neighbour, boyfriend and the son of an employer where the child was working as a domestic. One child, aged 15, was raped by her father. Seven of the nine children had a school education.

One of the cases reported was a case of commercial sexual exploitation where the uncle of a girl, now 11 years old, made pornographic videos of her. The incident took place during this time the girl was living with her uncle because her mother was working abroad.

Refer Annex D for details of trafficking cases.

Knowledge of Sexual Abuse and Trafficking:

The Polonnaruwa team held four FGDs. One was with Sunday School Teachers and three were held in Children's Homes. The Sunday School Teachers did not know what trafficking was. After it was explained to them, they said they were not aware of any cases of trafficking in the area. However, the teachers had a considerable knowledge of child sexual abuse, as well as knowledge of child rights. They stated that they knew of incidents of child sexual abuse in the area. The matrons of two of the Children's Homes did not know what trafficking was and it had to be explained to them before the FGD could continue.

Nineteen children of both sexes, aged between 14 and 18, participated in the FGDs in the three Children's Homes. The children did not know what trafficking was, although they all knew about sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and some had been abused

themselves. After they were made aware of what trafficking was, some were able to relate relevant accounts from TV and videos they had watched. After this, they stated that they did not know of anyone who had been trafficked. One child was able to point out that the route from Polonnaruwa to Kandy or Colombo was where children could be faced with harassment and problems, without specifically stating it was a trafficking route. None of the others was able to mention a trafficking route.

Traffickers and Those Complicit in CSEC, and Sexual Abusers

The children viewed parents, friends and male relatives (brothers, step-fathers) as the persons most complicit in CSEC. Respondents included male relatives and family friends among abusers. Some thought it was the *mudalalis* (merchants) who most abused children sexually.

The Sunday School Teachers said the children themselves go in search of abusers. They related the case of two girls who live with their grandmother. The grandmother drinks alcohol. Men who go to the village to work or who go on pilgrimage to the area are known to have sex with the elder of the two girls. All the activities take place in the village. According to these teachers, the girl herself finds the men with whom she engages in sex.

Protectors:

The children saw officials such as Probation Officers, Police Officers, teachers and the media as being their protectors from abuse. Once in a Children's Home, the children viewed employees of the home, such as matrons and administrators, as their protectors. Of the family members seen as protectors, grandparents and aunts (mother's sisters) were seen as protectors. Only one male child mentioned the father as being a protector. Neighbours were also seen as protectors by many children.

However, there were children who did not know whom they could seek help from when abused, and were not aware of CRPOs and other officers who could take legal measures for their protection. They only acquired this knowledge after they came to the Children's Home following the abuse. They felt they would be able to seek protection from Children's Home and schools but not from their parents.

The Sunday School Teachers said the police commit abuse as well. They related an incident where a group of children who had gone to bathe in the *wewa* (lake) had been harassed by a group of people. When the locals tried to assault them, they had realised they were from the police. The police then made a complaint that the villagers had tried to assault them when they went for a bath. Since this incident, the villagers turn a blind eye when they witness untoward incidents.

Why Some Children Get Sexually Exploited and Others Do Not:

In the FGDs, respondents said that some children got trafficked or entered into CSEC because of a lack of parental protection. This resulted from one parent, usually the mother, being abroad or from one of the parents having entered into a second marriage. Respondents also noted parental negligence, parents' and children's ignorance of society, poverty, alcoholism and low levels of education as factors contributing to the children's vulnerability.

Push/Pull Factors:

The following were seen as 'push' factors:

- Abuse, especially sexual abuse, in the home
- Low levels of education. This is the result of parents' belief that education is not important, children staying out of school to help families with the rice harvest, lack of proper schools and libraries, and CRPOs not doing their job properly by not encouraging children to go to school.
- Low morality and dependency of the community (stated perception by some respondents regarding the inhabitants of Dalukaana village)
- Parental lack of interest in their children
- Parents not telling anything to their children when they voluntarily engage in sex
- Poverty
- Alcoholism (usually the father)
- High birth rate
- Inadequate facilities such as libraries and activities such as Children's Societies to keep the children occupied

The following were seen as 'pull' factors:

- Promise of legitimate jobs
- The potential to earn money

Community Attitude Towards Trafficked/Sexually Abused Children:

When a sexually abused child returns home, the child is faced with a host of issues ranging from isolation by the community to lack of family protection. Two of the children who took part in the FGDs said that other children would not be allowed to associate with the child. Two children said that when sexually abused children return home they run the risk of their abuser going to their homes and threatening or killing them. Only one child said that when a sexually abused child returns home the child gets love and protection from the family and neighbours. Another child said that the community would respond positively if the child was well behaved and was clever and able.

What is Needed to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

The following were suggestions from respondents on how to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking:

- Uniting parents who have separated
- Finding lost parents
- Organise functions for children to demonstrate their potential
- Unite displaced families (with assistance of media)
- Grant educational scholarships to children
- Make children, especially those in remote areas, aware of the issue

- Empower children to protect themselves
- Provide a safe place for children to go to when released from prison or homes
- Provision of jobs
- Land
- Assistance to build a house
- Food and clothing
- Books

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen family-based child protection mechanisms.** Mobilize CRPOs, NGOs and others to provide training to family members on child protection, and conduct social-work-based intercession with family members to encourage family unity and reduce sexual abuse, domestic violence and alcoholism within the family. Through provision of alternative income-generation opportunities, encourage female caregivers to remain within the family and community. Encourage the development of protective and supportive relationships between families and community members.
- **Strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms.** Develop and pilot model programmes on community-based child protection, including referral to services, ‘watchdog’ mechanisms, day-care and drop-in services for boys and girls, and crisis response mechanisms. Advocate with the government to implement the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Children, particularly its strategy to create community-based development initiatives as a means to strengthen the protection of the child. Encourage government to develop a national child protection strategy and integrate it with the NPA.
- **Reduce stigma and discrimination against victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.** Conduct a study in selected target areas of the causes and impacts of stigma and discrimination against child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Following recommendations from the study, develop awareness-raising activities in communities and schools, including those with the participation of victims, to reduce stigma and discrimination against child victims. Adapt community child protection mechanisms for the reduction of discrimination and the protection of child victims against physical and psychological reprisal.
- **Strengthen the economy of families of vulnerable children.** Develop criteria to identify families of vulnerable children. Assist targeted families with income generation and work placement programmes, as well as welfare schemes to assist them with providing the family with basic needs.

- **Assist vulnerable children to mainstream into society.** In vulnerable communities, develop targeted interventions with the assistance of CRPOs, schools, other government stakeholders and NGOs to keep children in school, enhance children's learning opportunities and place them in functional vocational training programmes followed by work placement. With local stakeholders, develop participatory children's organisations.
- **Provide awareness on trafficking for law enforcement officials.** Provide comprehensive training on trafficking issues, legislation and responses for law enforcement officials.
- **Provide awareness on trafficking for stakeholders caring for children.** Provide awareness training on sexual exploitation, trafficking and linkages with family dysfunction and sexual abuse to government officials working with children (particularly school teachers, health care workers and staff in Children's Homes), NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Provide awareness for parents and community members.** Provide awareness programmes for parents and community members on trafficking and sexual abuse, including the consequences of sexual activities among their older children. Provide parents and community members with practical skills on how to respond to child protection concerns.
- **Provide awareness for children.** Conduct self-awareness programmes for children on protection, including community 'protection-mapping' exercises. Provide awareness programmes for children on sexual abuse, trafficking and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS and STIs, both in the community and through the schools. Provide children with practical skills to protect themselves from abuse, as well as information on referral for protection in the case of abuse or exploitation.
- **Improve the identification and filing of cases of trafficking, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.** Develop guidelines and training curricula for identification of trafficking and abuse victims based on international systems of victim identification. Conduct training activities with senior and line police officials to review existing legislation on sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking, and to formalize identification and case filing procedures.
- **Improve reporting of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.** Conduct a micro-study on the constraints to victim, family and community reporting of sexual abuse and exploitation in target communities. Develop strategies, including child lines and referral mechanisms, to improve reporting of sexual abuse and exploitation cases, and to provide security and confidentiality for those who report cases. Provide training to teachers and others who work with children in the community to identify sexual abuse cases.

- **Address the institutionalisation of children.** Conduct pilot studies and develop pilot programmes on community-based and family-based rehabilitation of children. Advocate with the government to implement the strategies of the National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Children which address the institutionalisation of children by encouraging community and family involvement in rehabilitation. Encourage judicial authorities to conduct diversionary judicial practices which place children in community and family care rather than remand.
- **Develop effective reintegration practices.** Develop minimum standards and guidelines for reintegration practice. Train CRPOs, Probation Officers and others in child-friendly reintegration methodologies, and encourage the rapid and effective reintegration of children from institutional care.
- **Address the quality of institutional care.** Develop minimum standards of residential care as well as self-evaluation tools. Conduct pilot programmes to develop and institutionalize key practices in government facilities, including case management, protection, life skills and functional vocational training.

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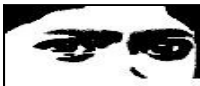
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Terre des hommes

child relief - www.tdh.ch

Child Trafficking and links with Child Sex Tourism (CST) and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEI). Moreover, whether the Tsunami had an impact on the trafficking of children in to these industries

Date:.....

Field Report

Time:.....

District:.....

Name of the Field Coordinator:.....

Location/s Visited (Specific landmark):

Beach		School		CBO	
Hotel		Certify School		Child Club	
NGO/INGO		Guest house		Street	
Hospital		Child Home		Other	

Purpose of the Visit:.....

Contact:

Formal Interview		Informal Interview	
Field Observation		Focus Group Discussions	

Person/s met:

Government Officer		Adult		CBO	
Child		Community Leader		NGO/ INGO	
Three wheel driver		Shop owner		DCPC	
Doctor		Religious Leader		Other	

Data/ Information Collected:

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Child Interviewed	Yes	No
Is the child asking for help?		
Do you think the child needs help?		
Has this child been trafficked?		

Follow up actions:

Date	Activity	Resource Need	Location	Remarks

Notification:

SAPSRI		District Coordinator		Probation Officers	
Tdh		Police		DCPC	
Hospital		Research Coordinator			

Comments about actions:.....

.....

.....
 Signature of the Field Coordinator

.....
 Date

D/C received	Name		Signature		Date	
SAPSRI/TDH	Name		Signature		Date	

Aim of the Research:

- Find new information relative to child trafficking and CST/CSEC
- Not to go over current knowledge
- Project driven research
- Information for projects to assist the child 'holistically'
- Examine who surrounds and influences the child at the risk of entry, while in CST/CSEC and upon exiting

Research Questions + Helpful Questioning Topics:

- How did the child physically and geographically get into CST/CSEC?
 - Trafficking route and where did they come from?
 - Who trafficked the child and/or was involved?
- What are the current strengths and weaknesses to protect the child from trafficking or exploitation (CST/CSEC)?
 - How aware are the children, community members, stakeholders on trafficking (sending and receiving communities)?
 - Who is currently working on the issue in your district?
- What child protection measures are in place while in the exploitative environment?
 - Who and what can children use to protect themselves while in CST/CSEC? (think of the *'Born into Brothels'* film and the protection mechanisms around the children)
- Who is present to assist and support the child to exit?
 - Who is working on the issue to get children out of CST/CSEC and what are they doing?
- What happens when they leave CST/CSEC?
 - Do they go home or somewhere else and why?
- What happens when they get home to their family and community?
 - What are the support mechanisms for the children?
 - How do they get home and what do they do?
 - What is the community attitude towards them?
- Why do some children get trafficked and others don't?
 - What are the sending community protection activities to prevent the trafficking of children?
 - Who is active and working on the issue in the sending communities?
- Did the Tsunami have an impact on the trafficking of children into CST/CSEC?

Key question for your actions:

Does the information I am seeking help us to answer the research questions or not?

Community Mapping Action form –CMAF

Priority	Resources	Location	Positive	Negative	Action	Completion date	Responsibility

District	Route	Abuser	Trafficker	Interview Y/N	Present
A'pura	Rambakulama, Medawachiya-A'pura town-Ratmalana	Boyfriend	Boyfriend	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	Thantirimale-A'pura town-Kelaniya	Boyfriend, Army Officer	U/k	N	Lebanon
A'pura	Within Vijithapura (girls home town)	Brother-in-law	Brother-in-law	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	Thalawa-Galnewa	Boyfriend-school boy she had love affair with raped her	Three wheeler driver	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	Kandy-Colombo	U/k if she was abused but she wrote she had 'problems' with the man she came to Colombo with	Unknown male	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	Naatandiya –Thabbowa	Master of house she worked as a domestic	Master of the house	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	Mahakandarawa-Medawachchiya - Town	Stepfather	Stepfather	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	18 th post Padaviya-the child is not saying where she was taken to or she does not know. However the child has been taken away from her familiar surroundings	Father	Father	Y	Children's Home
A'pura	Tanthirimale-A'pura town-Kelaniya	Boyfriend – Army officer	U/k –but she was introduced to the sex industry by her friend in the village	N	Prison

A'pura	Thambuttegama- Sold to people who lived locally by parents	Several men, including boyfriend, Uncle	Father and mother	Y	Home
Gampaha	Matale-Polonaruwa-Minneriya	Cousin	Bus driver	Y	Children's Home
Gampaha	Kahawa-Gonaduwa-Kahawatta	Boyfriend	Boyfriend	Y	Children's Home
Gampaha	Malabe-Home-Kaduwela	Unknown man	Mother	Y	Children's Home
Gampaha	Monaragala-Siyabalanduwa-Mt. Lavinia-Delgoda-Colombo	Boyfriend	Boyfriend	N	Children's Home
Gampaha	Southern province-Colombo	Boyfriend	Known male	N	Children's Home
Gampaha	Dambulla-Colombo-Singapore	Boyfriend	Boyfriend's friend	N	U/k believed to be in Singapore
Gampaha	N/k -11 boys were involved in this case where they were used to make a porn movie. The boys were brought from various places from the outstations.	N/k	12 people	N	N/k
Gampaha	Palangathurai-Mannar	Foreigner	Parents	N	Parental home
Gampaha	U/k	Science teacher	Employer	N	U/k
Gampaha	Negombo-Boralasgamuwa	U/k	Dance teacher	N	Believed to be working in a nightclub

Dambulla	Athuparayaya-Town centre	Boyfriend	Boyfriend	Y	Home with family
Dambulla	Pahalaweveva – Dambulla Town	Boyfriend and other men	Boyfriend	N	Children's Home
Galle	Kataragama-Galle City-Minuwangoda	U/k	U/k	Y	Children's Home
Galle	Walapone-Kegalle-Galle-Hikkaduwa	U/k	U/k	N	Children's Home
Polonnaruwa	Ambagaswewa-Moratuwa-Kandy-Seeduwa	Boyfriend	Boyfriend	N	Whereabouts U/k
Polonnaruwa	N/k	N/k	Father	N	Children's Home
Matara	Warella-Akuressa	Boyfriend	Boyfriend	N	Whereabouts U/k. She is missing from the Remand Home she was sent to
Colombo	Kuliyapitiya-Surrounding areas-Colombo(brothel)	Lover	Lover's friend	N	Institution
Colombo	Ratnapura-Ratmalana-Kiribathgoda	U/k	U/k	N	Rehabilitation Home
Colombo	Moratuwa-Mt. Lavinia	Step father	Step father, Three wheeler driver	N	Children's Home
Colombo	Kaduruwela(Polonnaruwa)-Pettah	U/k	Three wheeler driver	Y	Children's Home