Relocation and trafficking – is there a link?
Studies of children and youth in West Africa

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Independent Child Migrants: Policy Debates and Dilemmas
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Studies on children’s activity in West Africa

- Child beggars
- Diamonds
- Returnees
- Street children
- Migration
- Cocoa
Overview of the projects

- **Child relocation and trafficking**
    *Funded by Norweigian Ministry of Foreign Affaires (NMFA)*

- **Street children**
  - Bamako, Mali and Accra, Ghana (2004)
    *Funded by NMFA*

- **Children in cocoa**
    *Funded by NMFA*

- **Diamond related work**
  - Kono, Sierra Leone (2005)
    *Funded by NMFA*

- **Economic activities in postwar Liberia**
  - Lofa (2005)
    *Funded by NMFA*

- **Child beggars**
  - Dakar, Senegal (2006/07)
    *Funded by the World Bank, in collaboration with UCW (Understanding Children’s Work)*
Most important forms of child relocation

• Kin households
  - Kin fostering
  - Domestic work
  - Education

• Work places
  - Workshops and apprenticeship centres
  - Petty trade and other informal sector businesses
  - Fishery
  - Farms

• Muslim clerics
Parents motivation for sending children away

- Poverty
  - No possibility to feed and raise
- Give the children better opportunities
  - Education
  - Socialisation
  - Work experience
- Religious education
Childs motivation

- Dream of a bike
- Earn to their father, to own education, or to prepare their adult life
- Adventure
  - Storys from older children
  - Inspired from TV and other media
- No opportunities in the place of origin
  - Lack of education
  - Lack of work
- Religious education
Most children in West Africa work as farmers...

Three categories:
1. Own family
2. Relatives
3. Stranger
Others do domestic work

1. In own family
2. For relatives
3. For strangers
Some work in the ‘industrial’ sector

As the children in the diamon sector in Sierra Leone

1. Living with parents
2. Living with relatives
3. Living with employer
... and some are working in the streets

In Accra there are a lot of girls in the street,
In Bamako and Dakar mainly boys
Some move for religious reasons

89 percent of the child beggars in Dakar are *talibés*, quaranic school boys.
Some want to learn new skills

Such as mechanics
...some end up in prostitution
Some go to school, but low quality of schools

*Additional 50% in Mali have been in Koranic school

*Additional 8% in Ghana have been to Koranic school
Children work, inside and outside the household

- Some move away
- ...but are they victims of trafficking?
For the transfer of children to qualify as trafficking, the following criteria should be present:

- the conclusion of a transaction
- the intervention of an intermediary
- the motive to exploit
Prevention of relocation may promote trafficking
Factor that provoke exploitation

- Excess demand for apprenticeship positions may lead to exploitation
- Fishery represents severe exploitation
- Violence, exploitation and sexual abuse known to happen to domestic workers
- Harsh working and living conditions in the informal sector in streets and market places
- Working conditions in the agricultural sector vary
- Religious devotion may lead to exploitation by Muslim clerics
Social and family network protect the child

• Sponsors
  - Safe journey, protection in place, control employers

• Experienced family or friends
  - Safe journey, connections and experience from arenas, protection in place

• Foster possibilities
  - Offer protection and education, job opportunities, live in families
Is trafficking the biggest problem?

• For those concerned, yes, it is a serious problem, but trafficking is part of an even bigger problem:

  → Exploitation of children and worst forms of child labour takes place in work arenas regardless of relocation or methods of recruitment
Exploitation

- Children work, but most help out on family farms and businesses
  - Most work every day, but most intense in peak periods
  - For the foreseeable future this will continue
Exploitation

- In accordance with ILO convention 182, we suggest a focus on exploitation and worst forms of child labour
  - Street children
  - Children working for a salary outside of the family structure
  - Children working with pesticides and other chemicals
  - Children working with welding and other hazardous mechanical work
Combating exploitation

- **Street children:** Do not send them home
  - Give them protection and education

- **Trafficked children:**
  - Closed borders is not the answer, but the issue of migrating children should be discussed at the regional level.

- **Hazardous work**
  - Subsidising pesticides appliance
Organising the informal sector

• Unionising small scale mining
  ▪ Working conditions and increased knowledge about the minerals

• Organising street children
  ▪ Using existing street children networks for shelter and protection
Children don’t want to go home

- 'Get a better job':
  - Voinjama: 40
  - Kono: 20
  - Accra: 60
  - Bamako: 60

- 'Go to school':
  - Voinjama: 80
  - Kono: 40
  - Accra: 20
  - Bamako: 20

- 'Go home':
  - Voinjama: 100
  - Kono: 80
  - Accra: 60
  - Bamako: 40

- 'Get married':
  - Voinjama: 20
  - Kono: 40
  - Accra: 60
  - Bamako: 80

- 'Continue current activities':
  - Voinjama: 20
  - Kono: 40
  - Accra: 60
  - Bamako: 80

- 'Go abroad':
  - Voinjama: 20
  - Kono: 40
  - Accra: 60
  - Bamako: 80
Further reading


