

# **Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT): A Kenyan Case**

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# Overview

- Child exploitation covers:
  - (a) The Worst Forms of Child Labour;
  - (b) Child Trafficking
  - (c) Sexual Exploitation of Children and
  - (d) Child Abuse
- This presentation will focus on the **Sexual Exploitation** of Children in Travel and Tourism according to a study conducted in **Kenya in 2016**.



# Famous Quotes:

***"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."***

— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa

***"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."***

— Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman



# Introduction

- According to UNICEF, around **120 million girls** under the age of 20 (about 1 in 10) have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. Boys are also at risk, although a global estimate is unavailable
- Sexual violence is the worst of the children's rights violations as it **scars you for life.**
- **Note:** '*Sexual violence*' is used as an umbrella term to cover all types of sexual victimization, including **exploitative** as well as **non-exploitative** forms



# Global Trends

“According to the *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) 2016*:

- ❑ SECTT has **expanded across the globe** despite attempts at the international and national level to curb the vice.
- ❑ **no region is untouched** by this crime and **no country is ‘immune’**
- ❑ **even the most remote parts** of the planet are now within reach, thanks to cheaper travel and internet access.



*“.....With the economic growth, job creation and development opportunities that tourism brings, comes the challenge of its possible **detrimental impacts on the communities and the environment**. This is particularly true for the more vulnerable groups of society such as **children and youth** in those cases when the industry’s facilities are used for **nefarious purposes such as exploitation**.”*

- **Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Organization**



# Kenya's Overview

**Region:** Sub-Saharan Africa

**Income category:** Middle Income

**Population:** 46,050,302

**GDP (PPP):** \$141.6 billion (2015 est.)

**GDP growth :** 6% (2016)

**GDP Composition by Sector(2015 est)**

- Agriculture: 32.9%
- Services: 49.2% (including tourism)
- Industry: 17.8%

**42% of our population is under the age of 14 years**



# Kenyan Context

- The 2006 UNICEF study on the *Extent and Effect of Child sex Tourism and Sexual Exploitation* in Kenya estimated about 30,000 children in Kenya are involved in Child Sex Tourism
- A 2009 **Baseline survey** conducted by End Child Prostitution in Kenya (ECPIK) on Child Sex Tourism estimates that about 50,000 children are involved



**OFFENDERS ON THE MOVE**  
**GLOBAL STUDY ON  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
OF CHILDREN IN  
TRAVEL AND TOURISM  
2016**



# Key Findings:

- 32% of children respondents have been involved in SECTT, and 33% of the SECTT victims have been moved from one location to another, and were eventually sexually exploited by either tourists or local travellers in various parts of the country.
- Peers/friends (27%) and business friends – especially bar owners/managers (53%) – are identified as the main actors organizing children for sexual exploitation across Kenya.
- FDI projects lure children into child sex trade – e.g infrastructure projects
- The use of internet cafes by children under the age of 18 years is key source. This observation is supported by 96% and 100% of the adult and child study respondents respectively.

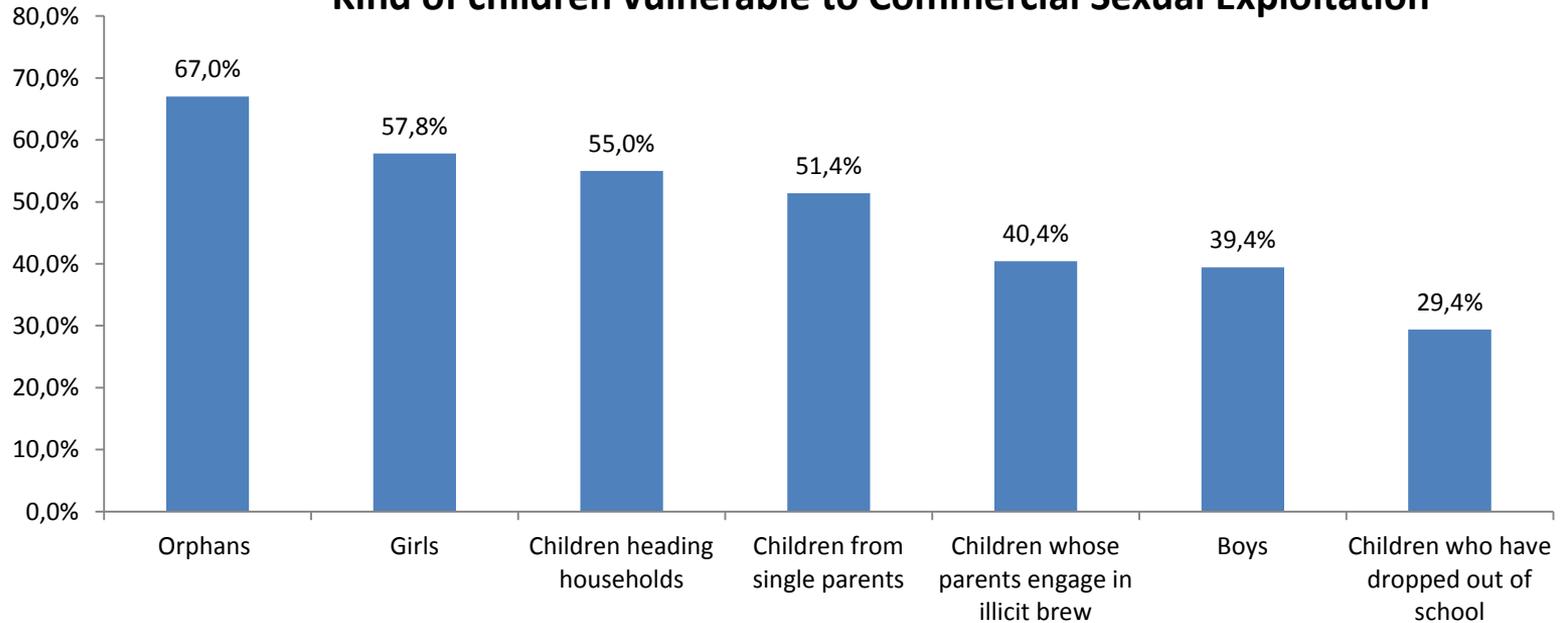
# Who are the perpetrators and who's the target?

- Typical perpetrators originate from the USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Canada, Korea, and China, among other developed nations. Those coming from African nations included South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, DRC, and Sudan.
- Kenyan offenders from affluent neighborhoods engage in commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Target is the poor neighborhoods, public areas and entertainment places.

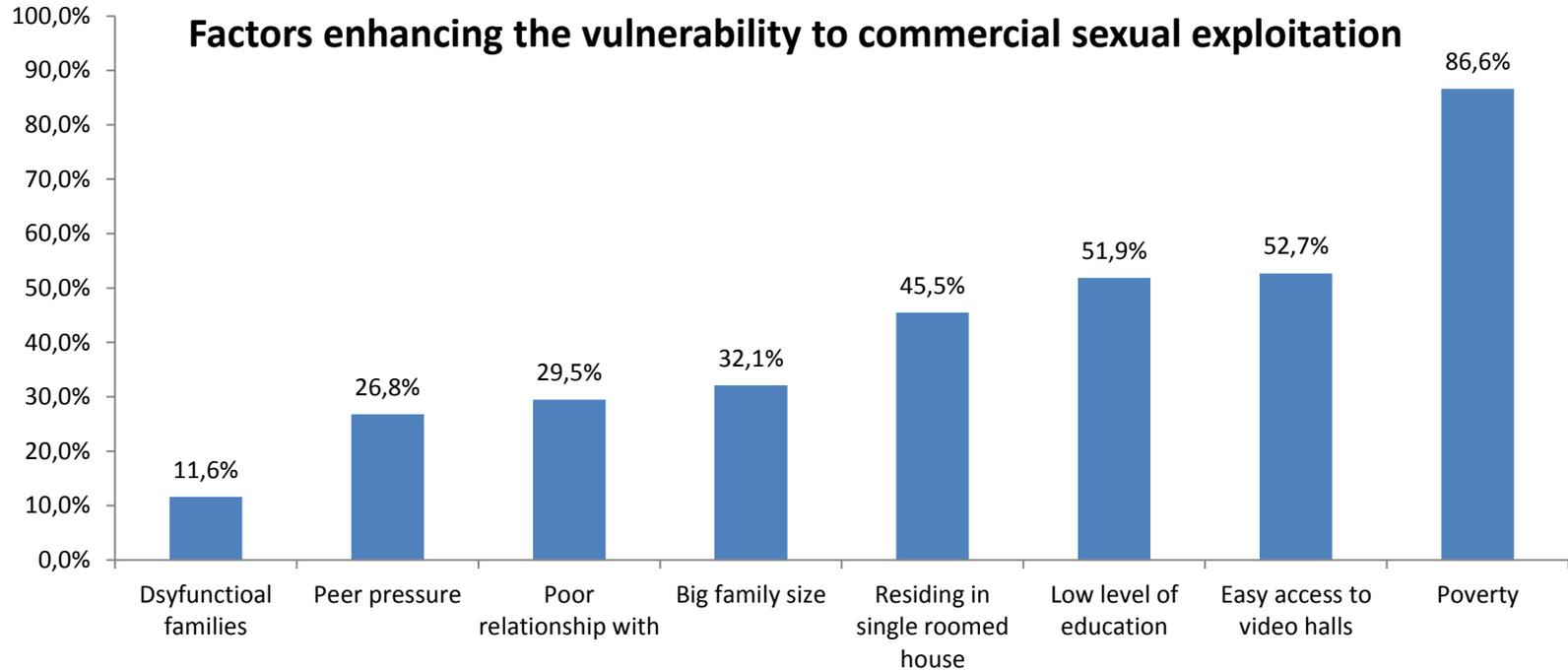


# Vulnerability

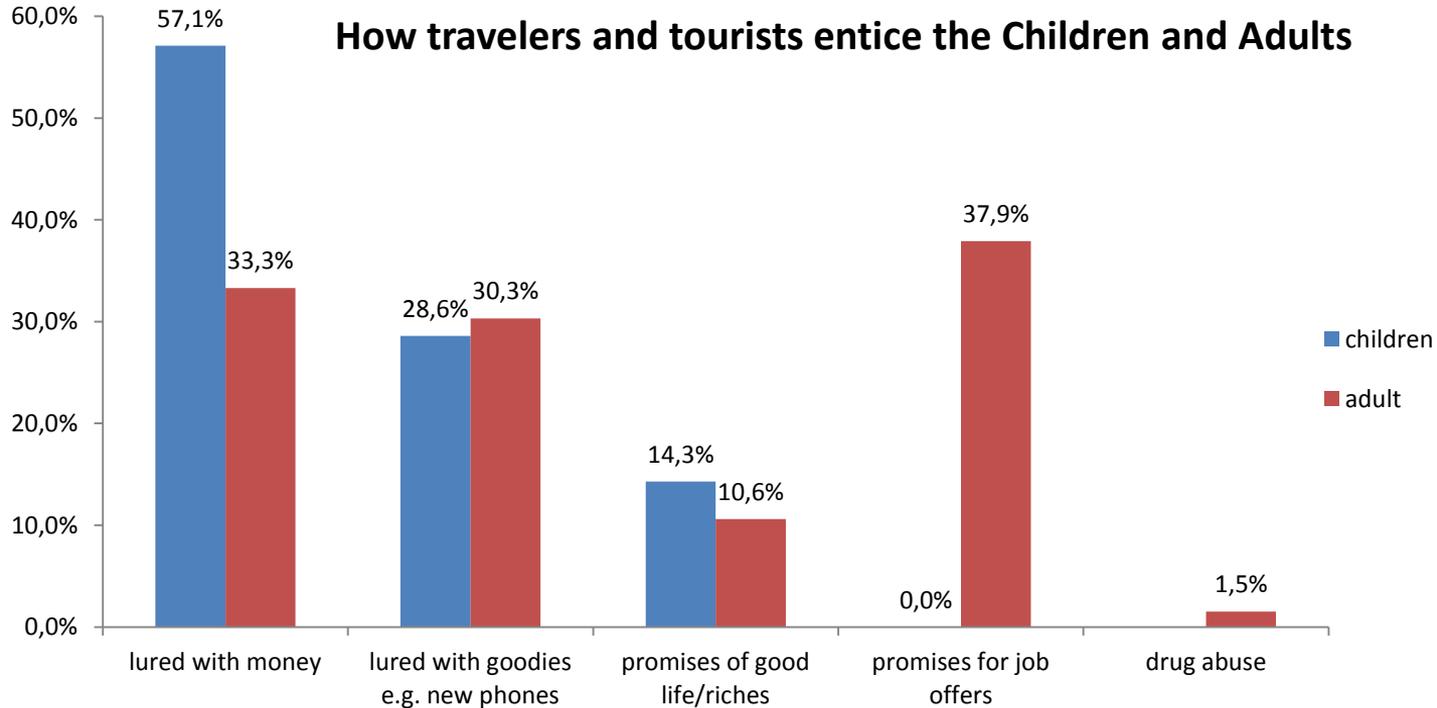
Kind of children vulnerable to Commercial Sexual Exploitation



# Vulnerability cont..

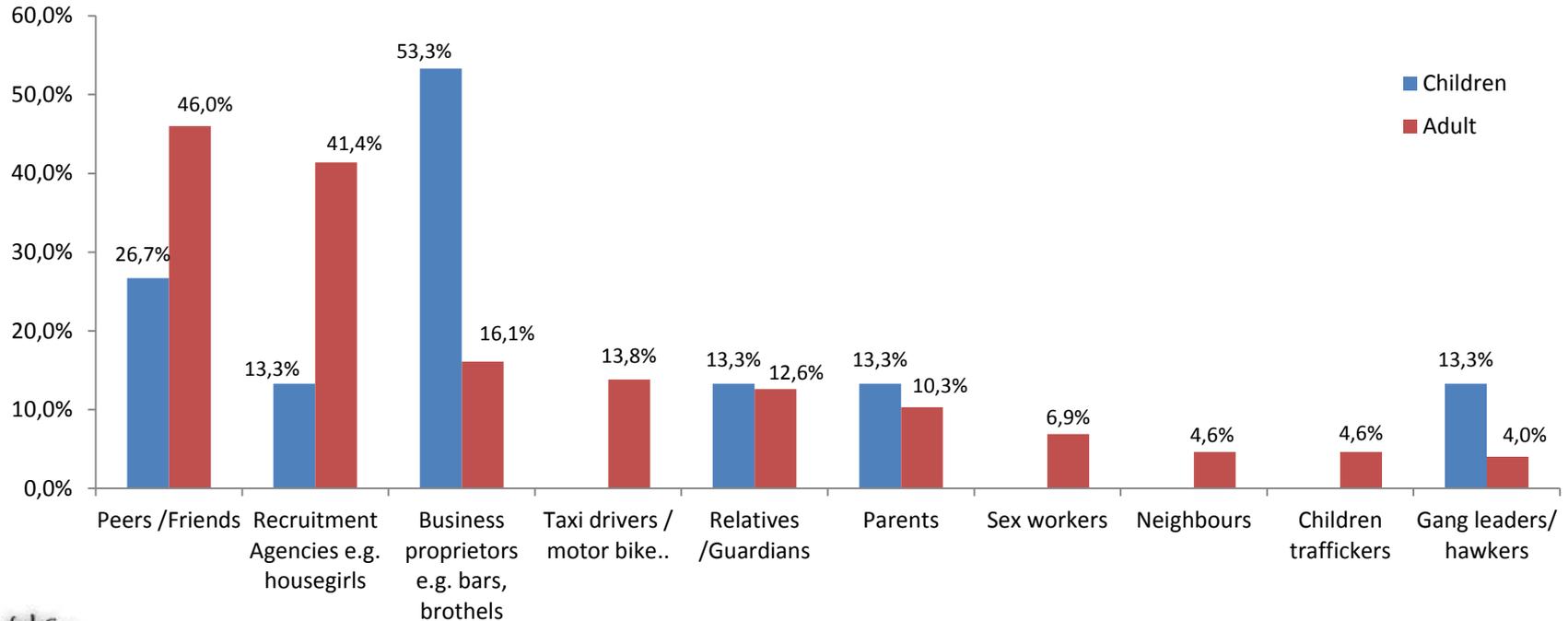


# Vulnerability cont..



# Vulnerability cont..

## Actors involved in organizing for Children Sexual Exploitation



# International Agreements

Kenya has ratified a number of international agreements geared to protection of all children and young peoples as follows:

- a) Ratified United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (1990)
- b) Adopted the Declaration and Agenda for action arising from World Congress against Commercial Sexual exploitation of Children (1996)
- c) Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2000)



# National Laws and Policies

ACT OR LAW	PROTECTION OF THE CHILD
<b>Constitution of Kenya, 2010</b>	<p>Article 53 on the Bill of Rights for Children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Right to be protected from <b>discrimination, harmful cultural rites</b> of passage and practices, <b>exploitation, neglect or abuse</b></li><li>• Right to be protected from all forms of exploitation and any work that is likely to be hazardous or adverse to the child's welfare</li></ul>
<b>Children Act, 2001</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established the <b>National Council for Children Services</b> (NCCS) which is the main agency that safeguards the rights of the child.</li></ul>

# National Laws and Policies

ACT OR LAW	PROTECTION OF THE CHILD
<b>Sexual Offences Act, 2006</b>	Provides for prevention and protection of all persons from <b>sexual exploitation</b> (including children)
<b>Employment Act, 2007</b>	Section 53, on <b>Worst Forms of Child Labour</b> prohibits one from engaging children in <b>prostitution, pornography</b> and <b>trafficking</b>
<b>Counter Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clearly defines the criminal nature of human trafficking and enables the Government to crack down on human trafficking</li><li>• Enables the country to offer protection to trafficking victims in Kenya</li></ul>

# National Laws and Policies

Other Laws and Policies that supplement the above include:

- a) Penal Code, Cap 63
- b) National guidelines on the Management of Sexual violence in Kenya, 2009
- c) National Plan of Action on Children, 2008-2012
- d) National Children Policy, 2010
- e) National Plan of Action on Child Labour
- f) Child Participation Guidelines
- g) The Framework for National Child Protection System in Kenya
- h) National Plan of Action against Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2013-2017**



# National Plan of Action Against Sexual Exploitation of Children

The current National Plan of Action 2013-2017 is the successor of the National Plan of Action on Children 2008-2012 and has been developed around **5 thematic areas**:

- a) Prevention
- b) Protection
- c) Recovery and Reintegration
- d) Coordination and Cooperation
- e) Child Participation

Strategic Area	Measures Taken
<b>Prevention and Identification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced a 24hr, toll free, <b>Child Helpline 116</b> in 2006</li> <li>• Government has open <b>153 District offices</b> country wide for Children Officers</li> <li>• Established <b>Children Courts</b></li> <li>• <b>Children Protection Units</b> (at Police Stations)</li> <li>• Progressive gazettement of <b>Children Magistrate Courts</b></li> <li>• Scaling up <b>cash transfers</b> to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs)</li> <li>• Awareness Raising, Sensitizations and Capacity Building</li> </ul>
<b>Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enforcement</b> of the laws enacted</li> <li>• Created <b>safe havens</b> for victims of child sexual abuse</li> <li>• Protecting children in <b>juvenile justice system</b></li> <li>• <b>Training of law enforces</b> on relevant sexual abuse laws and handling of evidence of the victims</li> </ul>

Strategic Area	Measures Taken / Being Taken
<b>Recovery and Reintegration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of <b>social, medical</b> and psychological <b>counselling</b></li> <li>• Provision of <b>legal aid assistance</b> and judicial remedies to victims</li> <li>• Provision of an <b>alternative source of livelihood</b></li> <li>• <b>Vocational and life skill training</b></li> </ul>
<b>Coordination and Cooperation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entails developing a <b>Multi-stakeholder</b> coordination , monitoring and documentation system</li> <li>• Currently, the National Council for Children’s Services has 21 members from Government, FBOs, CSOs and Private Sector</li> </ul>
<b>Child Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child rights clubs</b> in schools</li> <li>• <b>Children Assembly</b></li> <li>• Weekly publication in the <b>Newspaper column</b> title “ Children and the Law” – informs children of their rights in a child friendly manner</li> </ul>



# Challenges

- a) Lack of allocation of **adequate resources/commitment** to enforce laws and policies
- b) Victims **fear of speaking up**, resulting in offenders not being apprehended
- c) **Settlement** of courts case between offenders and parents of victims of sexual exploitation
- d) Poor **prosecutorial procedures**
- e) Fear of **offender reprisal** in case they are released by police or judiciary
- f) Deep Cultural inequalities in some areas

# Recommendations 5Ps

- Policy recommendations
- Prevention recommendations
- Partnerships recommendations
- Protection recommendations
- Prosecution recommendations offenders

# What players in tourism have done

- Advocacy
- Awareness
- Signing and commitment to codes
- Kenya Association of Women in Tourism
  
- Separate Ministry for Youth and Gender (engagement with tourism players)
- In education curriculum – child rights
- Involved communities in tourism
- Support education & other economic programmes



# Way Forward

- ✓ Entrenching in regulation the International Code of Conduct for the Protection of children from Sexual Exploitation in the travel and tourism industry
- ✓ Ensuring all tourism private sector companies adopt the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism
- ✓ More awareness and advocacy
- ✓ Enforce free education till high school. Currently only elementary
- ✓ Domesticating such sessions closer home – we need UNWTO in the regions to be able to assist us address such issues at the grassroots



# Asante....

