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Research **Report**

Small World, Big Responsibility: The UK's role in the global trade in children

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Cover image: Children and women at a World Vision shelter in northeast DRC for abused women and girls. 80% of the women and girls there have been sexually abused. They receive psychosocial and emotional help, training in sewing, baking and handicraft making, and learn farming and how to raise goats and rabbits.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre
CRED	Centre for Research on Epidemiology and Disasters
CSEC	commercial sexual exploitation of children
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO Convention No 182	ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NHS	National Health Service
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Trafficking Protocol	United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
USD	United States Dollars

Foreword

“It’s a small world”. An old expression which becomes truer with each day, each new development. We can communicate anytime, anywhere. Fresh produce comes from half way around the world to our local shop. We can visit in a matter of hours places our parents could only dream of, experience cultures they never knew existed. But behind the glossy travel brochure images, the reality for millions of children around the world is starkly different. At least 500 million children are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation each year. And in many cases these forms of exploitation are being exacerbated – knowingly or unknowingly – by our modern lifestyles and political agendas.

- We want low cost mobile phones - how do we think companies can afford to make them so cheaply?
- We want cheap holidays to exotic locations – why don't we ask why the child singing or selling goods on the beach isn't in school?
- We want greater security – but at what price for the poorest children in other countries?

This report seeks to provide a snapshot of how child exploitation is part of a global trade operating in the world today. And it's a lucrative business. Human trafficking is thought to be the third biggest international organised crime, after the drugs and arms trade. An estimated 20% of trafficking victims are children. But child exploitation goes far beyond the act of trafficking a child. It is an issue that cannot be ignored despite having a less visible impact on the UK and its citizens than gun crime or drug abuse. And it has a very real and damaging impact on the lives of children in countries where World Vision works.

The UK is facing economic turmoil and many parents are, rightly, worried about the impact of a recession on our children. But the impact of an economic crisis will be felt far worse by children in developing nations.

I have just returned from Niger where over five million people are facing hunger and possible famine due to a failing harvest. I saw girls as young as eight being treated as items to be bought and sold for marriage. I met Zainab, aged 12, who fled home with her grandmother to escape being a child bride having seen her big sister die in childbirth after an early marriage. There are too many more heartbreaking stories in this report of children equally in need of protection and help.

Our vision is that every child – no matter where they are born – can live life in all its fullness, to have hope and a future. For more than 20 years we have been working to protect and rebuild the lives of children affected by violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

We cannot do this alone. The international community, national governments, local communities, families and children themselves must work together to ensure that children grow up safe and secure within their families and communities and stop this thriving global trade.

Our hope is that this report serves to stimulate coordinated action to combat the global trade in children. We can start by thinking about the way we live our lives as individuals.



Justin Byworth
Chief Executive, World Vision UK

Executive Summary

Around the world today children are subject to shocking and abhorrent forms of violence and abuse for the purposes of commercial gain as part of global trade. At the heart of the trade in children is exploitation: the sale of a child, child trafficking, or other exploitation where benefit is derived from the use of a child's labour or body. Child exploitation is morally wrong, is a key issue of concern for children themselves and serves to hinder or reverse hard fought development gains.

Drawing on World Vision research and experience, a review of secondary literature, and interviews with a number of child rights organisations and government agencies, this report aims to draw attention to the widespread and profitable nature of the trade in children. In doing so it draws attention to four current and emerging global trends that have the potential to increase children's vulnerability to exploitation by pushing them into exploitative situations. These are:

- The interaction between poverty, fragility and cycles of violence – Over 50 percent of the world's poor are expected to live in fragile states by 2014. There is a strong correlation between violence and fragility. Together they compound poverty and exacerbate factors that make children vulnerable to exploitation. Violence, fragility and poverty weaken structures that protect children from exploitation, such as formal child protection systems and the basic family unit, and disrupt livelihood strategies.
- An increasing number of extreme weather events – The average number of natural disasters has more than doubled in the past 20 years. Most disasters are related to weather extremes. This trend is set to continue and is likely to push more children into labour exploitation over the next decade as crop yields reduce.
- Increased migration of women and youth – The 'feminisation of migration' is a current trend in global migration. Women are increasingly participating in formal or informal labour migration in their own right. This can have severe impacts on the vulnerability of children left behind. Alongside this trend, child migration for economic opportunity is increasing in developing countries. Migrant child labourers are often more prone to exploitative child labour than local child labourers.
- Greater financial interdependence – The interdependence of global trade markets ensures that the effects of recession in the North will continue to impact children in the South. Children's vulnerability to exploitation and abuse has been shown to increase in times of economic crisis.

The interconnected nature of our 21st century world means that the UK is complicit in today's global trade in children, by both stimulating demand for exploitation and failing to hold perpetrators to account. Three trends that drive this complicity are:

- High rates of consumption coupled with an expansion in outsourcing – Globalisation has led to the expansion of outsourcing and increased access to goods and products manufactured globally. As a result, the use of child labour in supply chains is of increasing concern, with many children in the worst forms of child labour producing goods for the global economy.
- Advancements in travel and technology – Increased transport links in an ever more connected world have led to a boom in global tourism. Statistics show that in 2010 there were 55,562,000 visits abroad by UK residents. This compares to just 31,150,000 twenty years earlier.
- A greater focus on security in UK policy – Increasing global instability has led to greater international attention to fragile contexts and the challenge of promoting stability and security within these. In the UK this has led to the securitisation of UK overseas policy and the development of a number of strategies to support stability and security through UK defence, development and foreign policies.

The report identifies four points at which these seven trends intersect to make the UK complicit in today's global trade in children. These are:

- Consumption of goods made using the worst forms of child labour – A number of products that involve child slavery, forced child labour or extremely hazardous work conditions have links to the UK.
- Exploitation of children who are trafficked into the UK – Hundreds of children are trafficked into the UK annually. These children experience various types of exploitation, including domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and forced begging or other hazardous work.
- Exploitation of children overseas by UK residents and citizens – Increasing foreign travel by UK nationals can increase the sexual exploitation of children overseas and unknowingly contribute to other forms of exploitation of children in tourism.
- UK Government support to foreign militaries that use child soldiers – The UK has made a renewed commitment to providing funding and training to foreign militaries to build their capacity. Whilst the funding may have legitimate aims, some of the countries that receive funding recruit and deploy children to fight.

Global citizenship brings with it responsibilities beyond our borders. As global citizens we all have a part to play in ensuring that our actions do not serve to increase the vulnerability of children from the world's poorest countries to being exploited as part of a global market. With millions of children around the world robbed of their childhood today, action to combat the global trade in children must be given the highest priority now. The report sets out 10 elements of an agenda for action for the UK public, UK-based companies and the UK Government which we believe will begin to make a difference in this fight.

For the UK public:

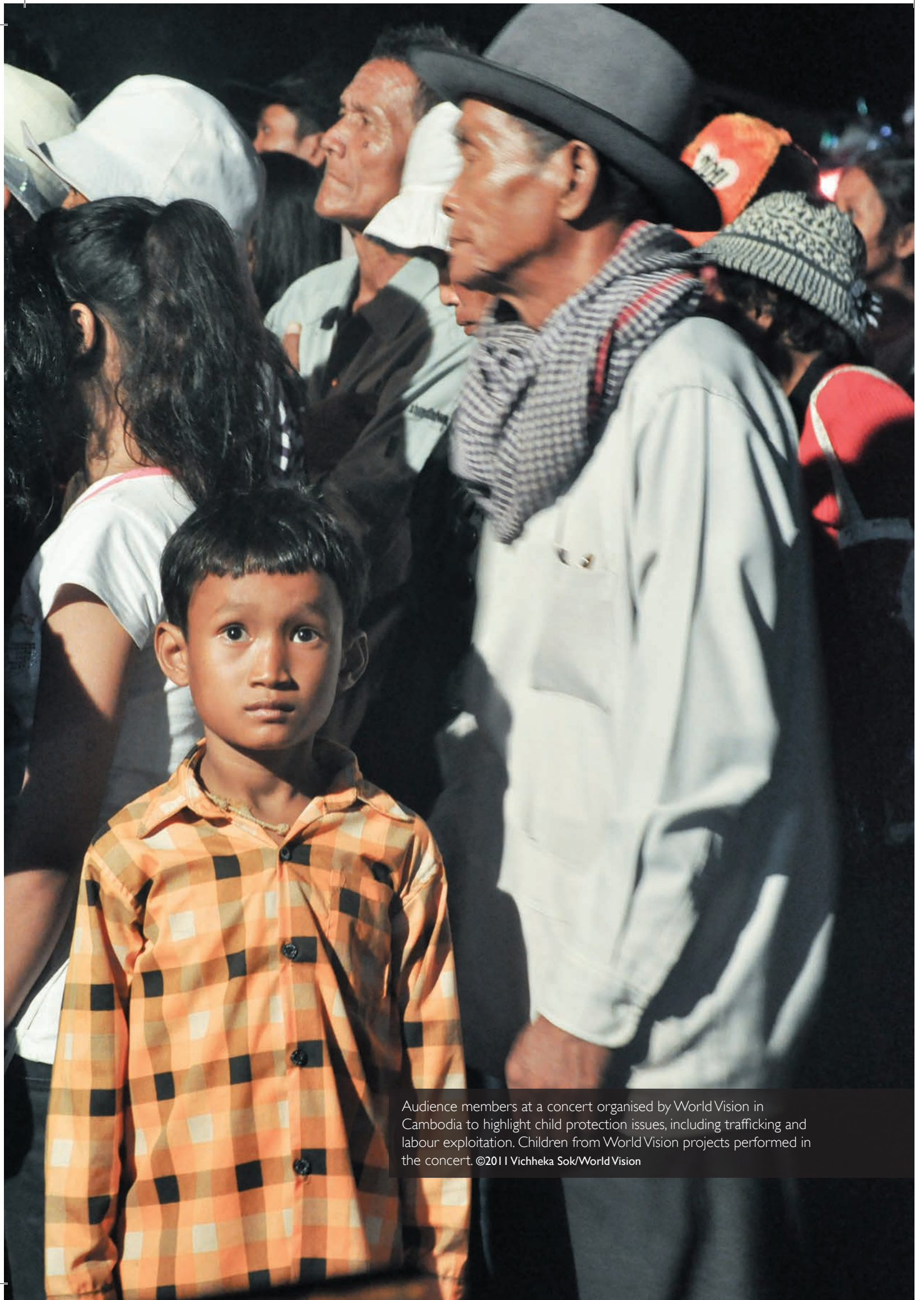
- Demand to know where your products come from
- Practice 'child safe tourism'
- Insist that your taxes do not support child labour

For UK-based companies:

- Take steps to ensure greater transparency in your supply chains and provide more robust guarantees that child labour has not been used in manufacturing of products
- Promote 'child safe tourism'

For the UK Government:

- Strengthen child protection systems overseas through development, defence and foreign policies
- Develop responsible, transparent policies for UK Government procurement to ensure child labour has not been used in products and services purchased
- Increase protection for children trafficked into the UK
- Protect children overseas from exploitation by British citizens and residents
- End support to militaries which recruit and deploy child soldiers



Audience members at a concert organised by World Vision in Cambodia to highlight child protection issues, including trafficking and labour exploitation. Children from World Vision projects performed in the concert. ©2011 Vichheka Sok/World Vision

I. Introduction

Our popular image of childhood is of a time of innocence. However, the reality for many children is harshly different. Around the world today children are subject to shocking and abhorrent forms of violence and abuse for the purposes of commercial gain. Moreover, children's vulnerability to labour, sexual and other forms of exploitation is being exacerbated by trends which serve to stimulate a thriving 'global trade' in children. As the globalised world moves towards ever more interconnectedness, this report provides an initial overview of the place and scale of the global trade in children, and areas where this global trade intersects with the UK.

In doing so it highlights seven trends which World Vision believes are increasing both the supply of children to be exploited and the demand for their exploitation: the interaction between poverty, fragility and cycles of violence; an increasing number of extreme weather events; increased migration of women and youth; greater financial interconnectedness; high rates of global consumption coupled with expansion of outsourcing; advancements in travel and technology; and a greater focus on security in UK policy. It then turns its attention to identifying how the UK's role as a 'global citizen' in an ever shrinking world can serve to either stimulate or combat this global market and begins to articulate an agenda for action for the UK public, UK-based business and the UK Government.

This report is just the beginning of the story. It does not offer all the solutions but seeks to direct attention to a predominantly hidden crime in which we, as global citizens, are often complicit. Over the next three years it is World Vision's intention to scrutinise the issues raised in this report in more detail and work with families, communities, governments and businesses in the UK, and in some of the world's poorest countries, to identify and take action to combat the global trade in children.

Why does it matter?

The issues raised in this report matter to World Vision because we believe that:

Child exploitation is morally wrong – children, often the most vulnerable members of society, have a right to a childhood and to live lives free from exploitation, abuse, neglect and all other forms of violence.¹ The trade in children has numerous negative physical and psychological impacts on children. Many of these impacts cause deep scars that cannot easily be seen. All forms of trafficking expose children to violence, abuse and exploitation and separate children from their family, friends, culture and often their country. This can seriously harm a child's sense of identity and trust in adults. Sexual exploitation can result in sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS, as well as physical injuries, psychological trauma including post-traumatic stress disorder and psychosocial effects that inhibit a child's ability to rehabilitate and reintegrate into 'normal' life. Hazardous labour can cause illness, injuries and even death; and severely impair children's physiological, neurological and cognitive development.

Child exploitation matters to children – in communities where World Vision works the critical issues identified by children tend to be related to their own sense of protection and care. In a recent World Vision survey of over 400 children in nine countries, including Niger, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, children identified that they were most concerned with the safety and security of their environment and family relationships.² In Albania, street children have been trained through a World Vision project to use photography to explain the issues they face on a daily basis to people who can make a difference – trafficking and child protection are top of their list. When World Vision asked 200 boys and girls in Lesotho to identify the issues they wanted to bring before the national parliament, their top five included sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect and child trafficking.³

¹ Article 19 in United Nations, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 1989, Treaty Series, Vol. 1577, p. 3.

² World Vision International (2011) *What do Children Think? Children's views on being cared for, protected and participating*, Monrovia: World Vision International.

³ Lipotso Musi and Maseisa Ntlama (2011) 'Lesotho's shadow children's parliament; voices that bridged the policy gap', in *Participatory Learning and Action: Young citizens: youth and participatory governance in Africa*, Vol. 64, pp. 105-112.

Child exploitation hinders development – abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence against children perpetuate cycles of poverty and gender inequality and negatively impact on health and education outcomes. For example, education for all children will not be achieved unless the current widespread exclusion of children in work is addressed; sexual exploitation and abuse of children can fuel the spread of HIV and AIDS; and the long-term impacts of exploitation on children can wipe out hard fought development gains. Addressing child exploitation is therefore fundamental to achieving sustainable development.

Methodology

The report is based on World Vision research, largely from 2007 to 2011, and a review of secondary literature. Interviews were also conducted with a number of child rights organisations and government agencies in the UK, Thailand and Australia. Case studies are used to both highlight trade in children issues and point towards potential responses. These draw on World Vision's work in a number of countries across Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

2. What do we mean by ‘trade in children’?

Drawing on various international frameworks, World Vision defines ‘trade in children’ broadly as any activity that involves the sale of a child, any form of child trafficking, or where benefit is derived from the use of a child’s labour or body. Most of the definitions used in relation to the trade in children come from international instruments that the UK and other governments have ratified. Though they are not always used in the same way across the child rights sector, the common thread of these instruments is the need to prevent the exploitation of children. This is the core issue at the heart of the trade in children and the focus of this chapter.

The international framework on the trade in children

The international framework of conventions, protocols, guidelines and actions on the trade in children has developed rapidly over the past 20 years, although the first instruments addressing slavery and forced labour date back to the 1920s. These standards, which set out clear obligations to protect children from trafficking, slavery and exploitation, include, amongst others:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC);
- UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UN Trafficking Protocol); and
- ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO Convention No 182).

The UNCRC requires governments to take all feasible measures to protect children from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. This includes all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, trafficking and sale, and “*all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child’s welfare*”. The Optional Protocol prohibits the “*offering, delivering or accepting*” a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation, child labour, organ transfer, illegal adoption, child prostitution or child pornography, while the UN Trafficking Protocol defines child trafficking as the “*recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt*” of a child for the purpose of exploitation, including prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, the removal of organs, etc. ILO Convention 182 includes all forms of slavery or slavery like practices, child prostitution and pornography, involvement in illicit activities (such as the drug trade), recruitment of child soldiers and any other work harmful to a child’s health, safety or morals in its definition of the “*worst forms of child labour*”.

What does exploitation look like?

The trade in children involves many types of potential exploitation and can be seen as the *process* through which children end up in exploitative situations, the *conditions* under which the exploitation is occurring and the *type* of exploitation in which children end up. It is important to note that children are not always subject to just one form of exploitation through one process. Child victims of exploitation may experience multiple forms of exploitation at any one time and can be ‘sold’ on to be exploited in other ways.

Processes of exploitation

Processes of exploitation include child trafficking and the ‘sale’ of children. **Child trafficking** is the recruitment and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.⁴ Methods commonly used by traffickers to obtain a

⁴ Article 3(a) in United Nations, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*, 2000, Treaty Series, Vol. 2237, p. 319.

child include: direct recruitment of children, including using deceptive techniques (for example, the promise of a good job or a better life); abusing a position of authority or trust (for example, a relative deceiving a child); force, abduction or kidnapping (especially infants); and providing payments or benefits to get the consent of an adult in a controlling position over a child.

Trafficking in South-East Asia and East Asia

South-East Asia is a well-known centre for child trafficking. The main trafficking flows within the Mekong sub-region are:

- Child trafficking from Cambodia to Thailand for begging or selling small products;
- Trafficking of girls from Vietnam to Cambodia or from Myanmar to Thailand into sexual exploitation;
- Boys trafficked from Myanmar to Thailand into factory work or fishing boats;
- Trafficking of young boys from Vietnam to China for illegal adoption;
- Rural-to-urban trafficking of girls in Cambodia into sexual exploitation; and
- Trafficking of girls from Laos to Thailand for domestic or factory work.

Methods used to control children once they have been trafficked include: threats, force, coercion, physical or sexual violence, social isolation, restricting freedom and movement, debt bondage and taking their identification cards and legal documents.

Source: UNICEF (2009) *Reversing the Trend: Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia*, Bangkok: UNICEF.

Nawng and Chit's story* – Myanmar

Nawng and Chit are brothers, the first and second sons in a family of 10 whose father did not have a regular income, despite his skills as a manual worker and painter. The boys' mother tried to work whenever she had the opportunity but there was never enough to feed the family, who were always in debt and, as a result, the boys never had the chance to attend school. Nawng and Chit's father let the boys go with their uncle as he promised he would adopt them as his sons. Instead, the boys were taken to the Thai-Myanmar border and were asked to sell flowers. They were scolded, beaten and even starved on days they were not able to sell all the flowers. When they tried to escape, they were caught and brought back to work. They were at last successful in their attempt to escape and, with the help of World Vision, eventually reunited with their family.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Sale of a child is the transaction of offering or accepting a child for money or any other consideration, and anything involving commercial profiting from a child's labour, body or activities.⁵ The term 'sale' of a child does not just mean for money. It also refers to any other way a person profits or gains something from illicitly passing a child onto someone else. Early marriage is often considered a form of sale of a child under this definition.

Though there are significant overlaps between the trafficking and sale of children the two processes are distinct. For example, not all trafficked children are 'sold'. Many are sold as part of the trafficking process but, as we have seen, some willingly go with those who intend to exploit them. States are called to address both of these through Article 35 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 3 of International Labour Organization Convention No 182.

⁵ Article 2 in United Nations, *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, 2000, Treaty Series, Vol. 2171, p. 227.

Conditions and types of exploitation

ILO Convention No 182 provides a useful basis for understanding and framing the most exploitative forms of child labour involved in the trade in children, encapsulating various processes and types of exploitation within a single category: *worst forms of child labour*. This categorisation is used as an organising framework for this report.

The ILO's 'worst forms of child labour' categorisation identifies conditions of exploitation as 'child slavery and practices similar to slavery'. Practices similar to slavery include debt bondage and forced labour. Debt bondage typically occurs when someone pledges their own labour, or the labour of someone in their control (e.g. a child), as security against a loan.⁶ In some cases, the loan interest may be so high that it cannot be paid; in others the bonded person's work might only repay the interest. The principal debt is then inherited from parent to child, and can become an inter-generational debt.⁷ Children can enter bonded labour on their own terms or as part of family debt.

According to the International Labour Organization, forced labour involves 'work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily'.⁸ Therefore, any exploitation of a child should be considered forced labour. The ILO definition of forced labour includes, for example, the non-voluntary recruitment of children into armed conflict to serve as combatants or in support roles such as spies, porters and sexual slaves.

Types of exploitation identified by the ILO include:

a. child pornography and child prostitution

Both child pornography⁹ and child prostitution are forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) involving some sort of commercial transaction in which the child, and/or an intermediary complicit in the child's exploitation, receives cash, goods or in-kind favours.

Child pornography is defined as 'any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes'.¹⁰ Of growing concern is online commercial abuse of children, where the internet is used to circulate sexual abuse images or stream sexual abuse live for online viewers.

Child prostitution refers to children's involvement in sexual activity for the financial benefit of a third party or to meet their own basic needs.¹¹

In most countries, girls represent the large majority of the victims of CSEC, although in some areas the sexual exploitation of boys predominates.

⁶The exact UN definition is 'the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or those of a person under his control as security for a debt if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined'. From the United Nations, *Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery*, 1956, Treaty Series, Vol. 266, p. 3.

⁷ United States Department of Labor (2010) *2009 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, Washington DC: United States Department of Labor, p. Xxxvii.

⁸ Article 2(1) in International Labour Organisation, *Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour*, 1930, United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 39, p. 55.

⁹ "Child pornography" is increasingly referred to as "child abuse images" to better reflect the abusive nature of the crime.

¹⁰ Article 2 in United Nations, *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, 2000, Treaty Series, Vol. 2171, p. 227.

¹¹ Ibid.

Mao's story* – Cambodia

Fifteen-year-old Mao has been driven by a painful memory since she was young. "My family is extremely poor," Mao explains. "When I was younger, my family did not have shelter to live in and we were staying in a temporary rest place without walls". "I have six brothers and sisters. I am the fourth child of the family. My mother sells fruit such as bananas, mangos and flowers. Meanwhile, my father is an assistant chef. Both of them earn a small amount of money and it is just enough for food and other expenses of the family members."

Mao didn't go to school for long. Family debt pressured her into the sex trade in order for her to earn money to pay for what her family owed. "One day, I went to visit a friend. My friend's mother asked women and girls staying in her house if anybody wanted to sell Pomme (a Cambodian reference to virginity)." After thinking about her family and their financial state for a while, Mao answered, "Yes, I will."

At dawn the next day, two women waited for Mao in front of a pagoda on the outskirts of the capital city of Phnom Penh. The woman instructed Mao to mask her face so no one would recognise her. Together with the women, she travelled to a hotel where her virginity was sold to a man for \$200 US dollars (USD). Mao immediately sent \$150 USD to her mother to pay her debts, but did not let her mother know where the money had come from. Mao blames herself, "I should not have been so naïve and ignorant to trade myself", but poverty pushed her to do it again and again.

Just several days later, she accepted another offer. That time, the man did not touch her and left her with \$30 USD. Mao's final client happened to be a foreigner, a man who was being investigated and tracked by the Cambodian department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Minor Protection. This investigation finally led to Mao's escape from the abuse and the opportunity to rebuild her life.

Mao dreams of becoming a teacher. She says, "I want to be a Khmer teacher, so I can read and teach other people to read."

World Vision works with girls like Mao who have survived sexual abuse to support their recovery and provide them with hope and opportunity for the future. Girls are offered counselling, health and education support and vocational training to provide them with new ways to earn a living. Where possible, and in the girl's best interests, World Vision works to support re-integration of girls with their families.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

The sexual abuse of boys has existed in every culture throughout history but is a topic that is largely ignored. Research published in 2008 by World Vision and Swiss NGO Hagar found that significant numbers of boys are sexually exploited by national and foreign adults in a variety of settings within Cambodia.¹² World Vision has also observed this phenomenon in places such as Mexico, Pakistan, Thailand and the Great Lakes region of Africa.¹³

¹² Alistair Hilton and Social Services of Cambodia (2008) *"I thought it could never happen to boys": Sexual abuse and exploitation of boys in Cambodia. An exploratory study*, A report for Hagar, World Vision Cambodia and World Vision Canada.

¹³ See: Heather Peters (2007) *Sun, sex and heritage: Tourism threats and opportunities in South East Asia*, a joint publication between the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) and World Vision, p. 21; World Vision International (2008) *Commercial child sexual exploitation (Mexico)*. Series on child labour and exploitation in Latin America and the Caribbean, p. 6; World Vision Africa (2006) *Their future in our hands: Children displaced by conflicts in Africa's Great Lakes Region*, p. 21.



Busy nights at Pakistan's largest bus terminal where an estimated 5,000 street children struggle to survive. A World Vision drop-in centre has been opened to provide care and protection for these children.

©2009 Mary Kate Maclsaac/World Vision

Masood's story* – Pakistan

My name is Masood. My mother died when I was young and my father remarried not long afterward. My step-mother constantly mistreated me. As I got older, living with her became unbearable. Finally, I boarded a bus and left. I was only 15. I didn't know where the bus was going - I just got off at the last stop. It was a busy bus terminal in a huge crowded city.

I didn't know anyone in this strange city. I was hungry, so I asked a hotel owner if I could work for him. I thought I could wash dishes to make money. He said yes, and told me I could stay in a room with some other children. My first night there, a man came into the room and forced me to have sex with him. I was terrified, but what could I do? The second night another man came and did the same thing. Fighting back my shame, I went to the hotel manager and told him what was happening. I was stunned when he told me not to bother him. He said that kind of thing happened all the time. When I told him I wanted to leave, he threatened me and said if I left the police would throw me in jail and I'd be killed by strangers.

Afraid of what he'd said, I stayed. I washed dishes during the day, and served "customers" at night. Every customer paid about \$0.50 USD or bought me dinner. All of the boys at the hotel did the same thing. I hated what I was doing, so I began to use alcohol and drugs to try to block it out. After a while, I became numb - I had no other choice. My family didn't care about me, and I feared I would be killed if I fled. I had nowhere else to go.

Addressing abuse of boys in Pakistan

For the past seven years World Vision has been working with boys like Masood in Pakistan, providing informal health, education, counselling, and recreational services at drop-in centres; supporting family-based care; and working with communities, including hotel owners, shopkeepers, teachers and police officers, to recognise and respond to abuse. World Vision works to re-integrate children living on the streets with their families through counselling, conflict resolution and livelihoods support. Where children are unable to return to their families, World Vision works with the government and local Community Support Committees to find alternative care. Younger children are supported to re-enter education and older adolescents given the opportunity for vocational training so that they can earn a living safely.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Forced marriage can, in the majority of cases, be seen as a form of commercial sexual exploitation. In such cases, girls typically are forced to marry with the parents or intermediaries receiving goods or money in exchange for the marriage. The girls are then subjected to sexual relations with their new husbands whether they are complicit in the marriage arrangement or not. Early marriage, which can be identified as a form of forced marriage, involves the marriage of any child below the age of 18 years of age.

The sexual abuse of children in tourism¹⁴ is a concerning CSEC trend involving child prostitution and/or child pornography. It is generally understood as engagement in sexual acts with children in the course of travel to another area or country. This can involve those who travel with intent to abuse children and those who had no prior intent but are 'situational offenders'. Both men and women may be offenders; they may be tourists, business travellers, NGO employees, expatriates, diplomats, volunteers or professionals working with children abroad, such as teachers and social workers or the military.¹⁵ Not all travelling sex offenders are foreigners; many are abusing while travelling to cities or resorts in their own country.

b. children's involvement in illicit activities including the drug trade

Several common income generation activities undertaken by children are illegal, such as producing, trafficking or selling drugs and, in many countries, begging. Children may be forced with threats and violence to take part in these activities, or do so out of a matter of necessity for survival.

Forced begging – Senegal

Forced child begging involves forcing boys and girls to beg through physical or psychological coercion. One form of forced begging of increasing interest is linked to some Quranic schools in Africa. In Senegal, 50,000 boys (Talibés) in urban residential Quranic schools (daaras) are forced to beg up to 10 hours a day by their teachers (marabouts) who are their 'de facto' guardians. Most are four to 12 years old. They live in severe deprivation and face extreme abuse, with no medical care or contact with family. Many thousands have been trafficked from their villages in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, after being transported or received by the marabout. Boys have to meet a punishing daily quota of money, rice or sugar that almost equals the national daily income; the highest amount is expected from boys aged eight to 15. The marabout profits entirely from the takings and often resells the foodstuffs. Many Talibé children have been forced to choose life on the street to escape brutal abuse.

In Senegal, World Vision is working in communities to make people aware of the reality of life for Talibés and supporting the promotion of Quranic education in mainstream schools so that parents don't feel they have to send their children away to study. World Vision has also been working with a number of marabouts based in Dakar to stop exploiting Talibé children in their care by identifying different sources of income and possibilities for the marabouts to return to the communities from where they had come with the children. As a result, three marabouts have agreed to return with 150 children. World Vision is providing accommodation and the local Rural Councils are providing land to support income generation through growing produce.

Nationally, World Vision has successfully worked with others to call for the development of a child protection strategy by the Government of Senegal. World Vision was also successful in calling on the Government to put an end to the practice of Talibé and begging. However, this decision has since been revoked.

Sources: Human Rights Watch (2010) *"Off the backs of the Children" Forced begging and other abuses against Talibés in Senegal*, New York: Human Rights Watch; US Department of State (2011) *Trafficking in Persons Report 2011*, Washington D.C.: US Department of State, p. 27.

¹⁴This was formerly known as "child sex tourism". World Vision prefers to move away from this term, however, as it does not adequately reflect the abusive nature of the exploitation.

¹⁵ECPAT (2011) *Off the Radar: Protecting Children from British Sex Offenders who Travel*, London: ECPAT UK, p. 7.

c. work that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children

Hazardous work includes child domestic labour and other work in the service sector; agriculture, fishing and aquaculture, manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction, and various types of street work. The majority of children in hazardous work (59%) are in agriculture (fishing, forestry, livestock herding, aquaculture, subsistence and commercial farming). The service sector sees 30% of hazardous child labour, followed by industry (11%). Boys are more likely to work in agriculture and industry, girls in services.¹⁶ Hazardous work tends to be in the informal sector, where children's work is unrecognised, unregulated and where children are often hidden and ignored.¹⁷

Domestic labour

Children enter domestic labour and servitude in a range of ways including cultural tradition (e.g. to work for a relative in exchange for an education that is never provided), deception, and other forms of trafficking into domestic servitude. In South East Asia, Laotian girls are being trafficked to Thailand for domestic work. In Tanzania, trafficking young girls into domestic service 'continues to be Tanzania's largest trafficking problem'. Indonesian girls have described being 'lured with false promises of higher wages in cities without full details about the tasks they would perform, the hours they would be expected to work, or their inability to attend school'. They may work 14 to 18 hours a day, often with no freedom or pay, leaving them isolated, highly vulnerable to abuse and too poor to leave.

According to latest figures from the UN, 68 percent of child domestic workers experience physical abuse, including rape.

Sources: UNICEF (2009) *Reversing the Trend: Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia*, Bangkok: UNICEF, p. 29; US State Department (2011) *Trafficking in Persons Report 2011*, Washington D.C.: US Department of State, p. 349; Human Rights Watch (2009) *Workers in the Shadows: Abuse and Exploitation of Child Domestic Workers in Indonesia*, New York: Human Rights Watch; NGO Advisory Council for Follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children (2011) *Five years on: a global update on violence against children*, Geneva: NGO Advisory Council.

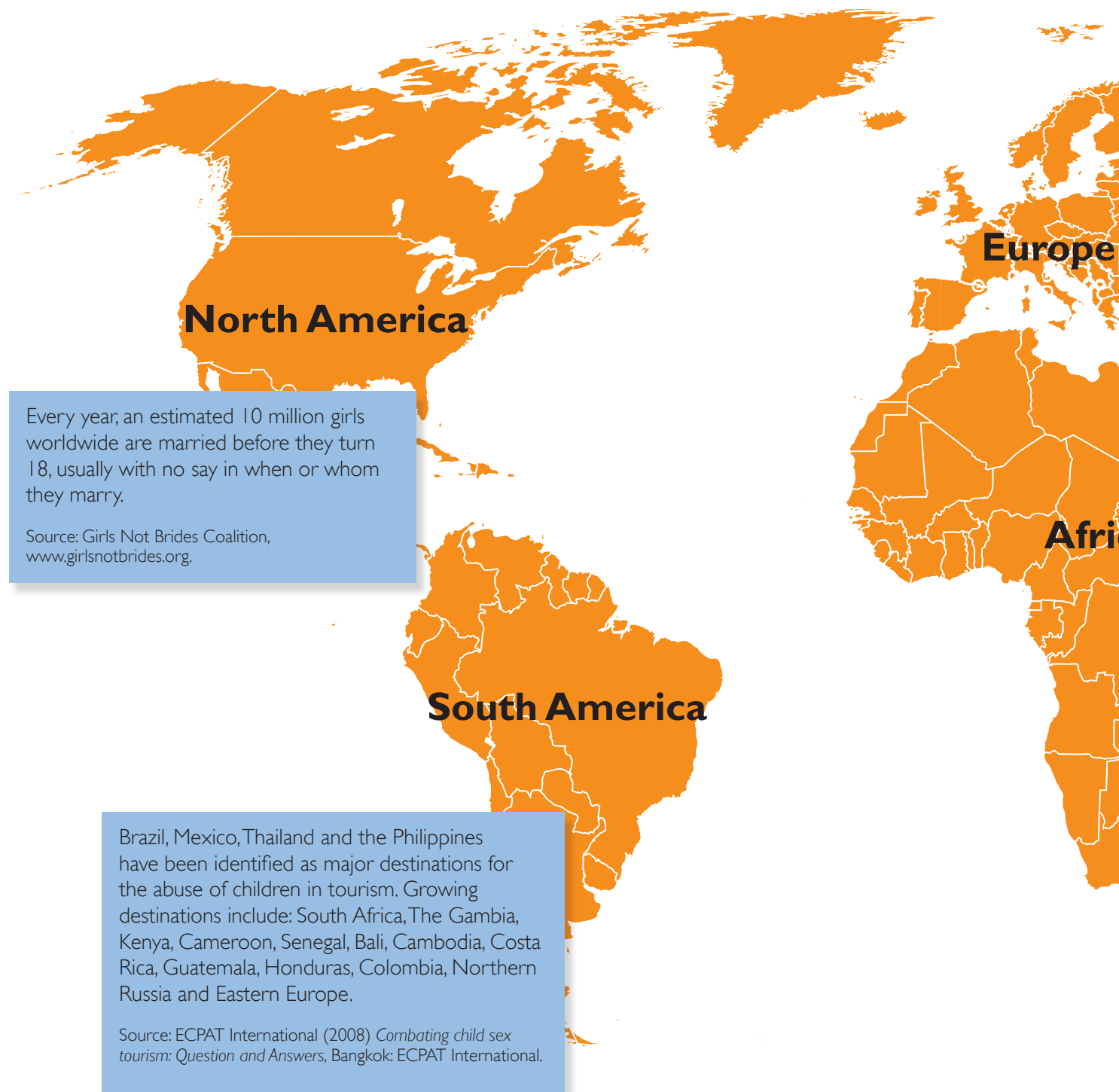
¹⁶ ILO (2011) *Children in hazardous work: what we know, what we need to do*, Geneva: ILO, p. 9.

¹⁷ ILO (2009) *Give girls a chance – tackling child labour, a key to the future*, Geneva: ILO, p. 21.

3. What is the current scale of the global trade in children?

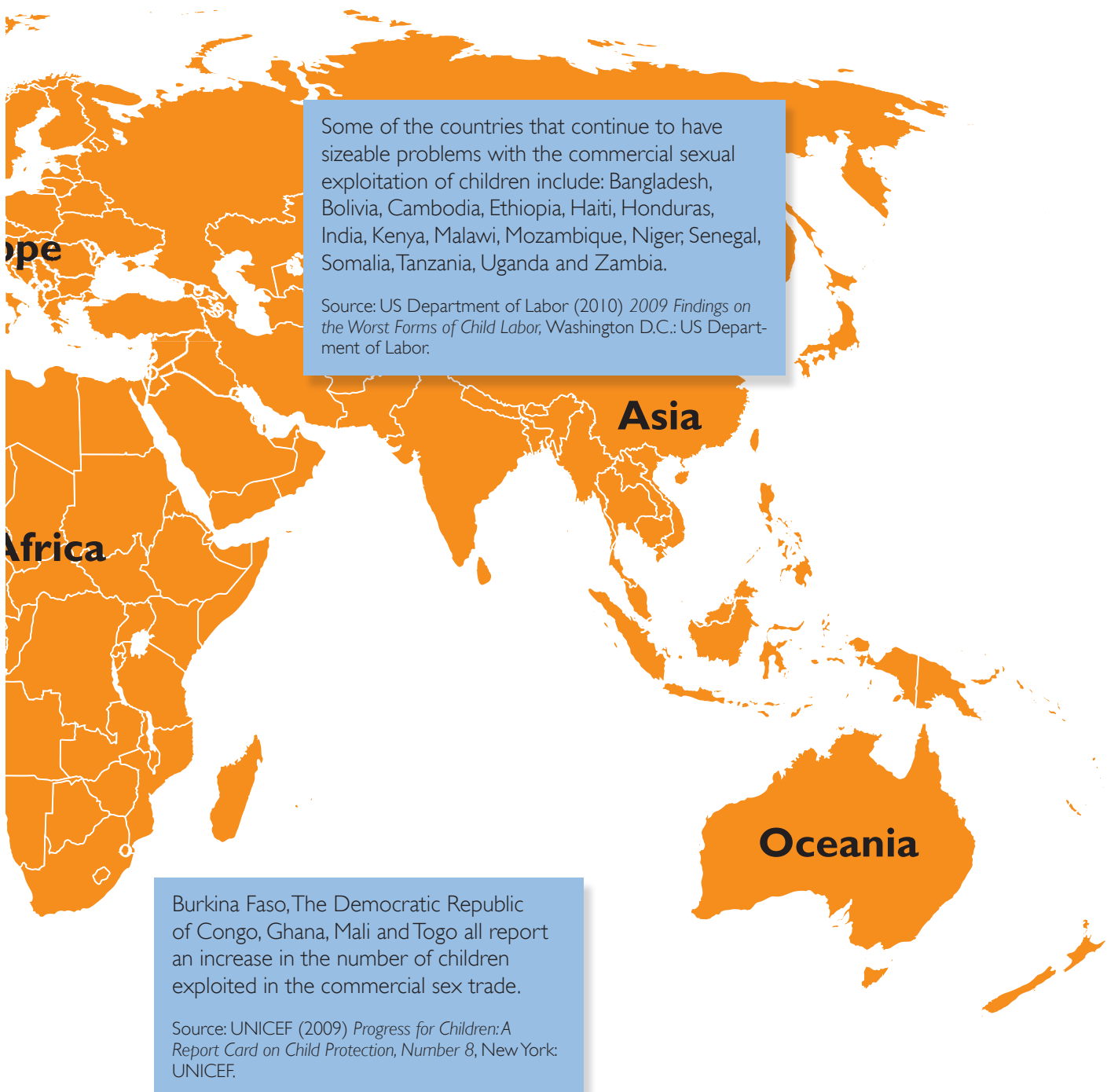
Though it is extremely difficult to get reliable statistics on the extent of the trade in children and revenues which it generates, all the evidence points to its global scale and lucrative nature. Here we refer to national and regional data sources and case study examples to begin to highlight the scale of the problem.

Commercial sexual exploitation



There are an estimated 10,000 to 100,000 child victims of pornography worldwide, including babies. In 2009, the Internet Watch Foundation received reports of online sexual abuse of children on 16,739 web pages, traced to 41 different countries.

Sources: UN Human Rights Council (2009) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Najat M'jid Maalla, A/HRC/12/23*, p. 10.; Internet Watch Foundation (2010) *Annual and Charity Report 2010*, Cambridge: Internet Watch Foundation.



Some of the countries that continue to have sizeable problems with the commercial sexual exploitation of children include: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Source: US Department of Labor (2010) *2009 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, Washington D.C.: US Department of Labor.

Burkina Faso, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali and Togo all report an increase in the number of children exploited in the commercial sex trade.

Source: UNICEF (2009) *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection, Number 8*, New York: UNICEF.



Celine's story* – Democratic Republic of Congo

My name is Céline. I'm 14 years old and was born third in a family of five children. My daddy died when I was eight years old, then my mum died when I was in Grade Two of primary school. My uncle decided to take care of me and moved me from the town where I was living with my grandmother after my parents' death to the city of Beni.

When I arrived at my uncle's family I suffered discrimination from my uncle's wife. She wasn't feeding me as her children and I wasn't sent to school.

Meanwhile a woman who saw me suffering approached me and promised to give me a job at her restaurant where she was also selling beer. I accepted the offer but later on she initiated me and three other girls I found there to sex and I had sex with several men between 35-40 years old. To make us unconscious and free from shame we were forced to take drugs.

Every time we get sick, that woman will send us away from her place. To earn the right to a meal everyone has to have sex with 3-4 men per day. Each of the customers paid between \$5-10 USD directly to the woman. She said that all the money was to be used for renting the place and pay for food. Nothing was paid to us.

I got aware of my poor conditions through a local child rights organisation and child parliament radio broadcasting, supported by World Vision. I then decided to leave the place and join the World Vision project. World Vision has integrated me in a host family and I'm having tailoring and literacy training and they also provide us with some clothes and advice.

I already hope to get a better life and I plan to go back to live with my grandmother when I complete my vocational training. I hope at that time I will be independent. I'm in contact with my grandmother. I call her using my friend's phone since I don't own one personally.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.



This local radio station, in eastern DRC, gives airtime to the World Vision supported Child Parliament each week to make children aware of their rights to protection and what to do about abuse. The Child Parliament is a diverse group of children including former child soldiers and child sex workers.
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Hazardous labour

Latest estimates from 2008, drawing on national level surveys, indicate that globally 215 million children are in child labour.¹⁸ More than half of them (115 million children) are in hazardous work – over 7% of all children globally.¹⁹ The highest *number* of children in hazardous work is in the Asia and Pacific region; but the largest *proportion* is in Sub-Saharan Africa. More boys than girls are in hazardous work across all age groups: 9% of boys aged 5-17 years in employment are in hazardous work compared to 5.4% of girls.²⁰

Table: Regional estimates of children in hazardous work in 2008 (5-17 age group)

Region	Total children ('000)	Hazardous work ('000)	Incidence rate (%)
World	1,586,288	115,314	7.3
Asia and the Pacific	853,895	48,164	5.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	141,043	9,436	6.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	257,108	38,736	15.1
Other regions	334,242	18,978	5.7

Source: ILO (2010) *Global Child Labour Developments: Measuring Trends from 2004 to 2008*, Geneva: ILO, p. 12.

Children's forced involvement in both the agricultural and industrial sector is found across the world as the table below illustrates.^{21,22}

¹⁸ ILO (2010) *Accelerating action against child labour; A Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, Geneva: ILO. It is important to note that these figures also capture estimates of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation as this falls within the ILO's definition of 'hazardous work'.

¹⁹ ILO (2010) *Global Child Labour Developments: Measuring Trends from 2004 to 2008*, Geneva: ILO, p. 13.

²⁰ ILO (2011) *Children in hazardous work: what we know, what we need to do*, Geneva: ILO, p. 7.

²¹ United States Department of Labor, *Executive Order 13126*, <<http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/regs/eo13126/main.htm>> [accessed 15 December 2011].

²² This list was published by the US Department of Labour in May 2009 and is based on extensive sources including: US Government, foreign governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, field research projects, academic research and the media. US embassies and consulates also undertook site visits in relevant countries to verify the information gathered.

Table: Products mined, produced, or manufactured by forced or indentured child labour

Product	Countries
Bamboo	Myanmar
Beans (green, soy, yellow)	Myanmar
Brazil Nuts/Chestnuts	Bolivia
Bricks	Myanmar, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan
Carpets	Nepal, Pakistan
Coal	Pakistan
Coca (stimulant plant)	Colombia
Cocoa	Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria
Coffee	Cote d'Ivoire
Cotton	Benin, Burkina Faso, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Cottonseed (hybrid)	India
Diamonds	Sierra Leone
Electronics	China
Embroidered Textiles (zari)	India, Nepal
Garments	Argentina, India, Thailand
Gold	Burkina Faso
Granite	Nigeria
Gravel (crushed stones)	Nigeria
Rice	Myanmar, India, Mali
Rubber	Myanmar
Shrimp	Thailand
Stones	India, Nepal
Sugarcane	Bolivia, Myanmar
Teak	Myanmar
Textiles (hand-woven)	Ethiopia
Tilapia (fish)	Ghana
Tobacco	Malawi
Toys	China

Source: United States Department of Labor; *Executive Order 13126*, <<http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/regs/eo13126/main.htm>> [accessed 15 December 2011].

World Vision's own experience suggests that this is not an exhaustive list. For example, we know that children are involved in the production of coca in Bolivia and copper in the DRC.

Bolivia

A study by the Organisation of the American States warns that Bolivia is in the top five South American countries in terms of the most cases of trade and trafficking of people. Adolescent women are recruited in the Amazon region for sexual exploitation in the east. In rural areas, fathers hand over their youngest sons to work with their patrons. The statistics signal that there was a 92.6% rise in the first third of 2010, when viewed in relation to the same period in 2009. Despite this, World Vision's experience in the country indicates that data consolidated at a national level does not reflect the magnitude of the problem.

Source: World Vision Bolivia

Miguel's story*

In January 2011, Miguel, a 12 year old boy from the high plains, was taken by his cousin to the Bolivian jungle. She promised Miguel the opportunity to get a good job that would permit him to live better and continue studying. This took place without parental consent. Upon arriving at the promised place, Miguel was sold by the cousin and brought to a coca-crop grower who instructed the child to work from dawn until dusk attending the coca-leaf crops.

For six months he was subject to psychological and physical ill-treatment and food deprivation until he suffered an accident that hurt his arm. However, he did not receive appropriate medical attention and with the passing of time the wound worsened causing him to have high fevers and making it impossible for him to continue working. He was, therefore, thrown out onto the street by his employer.

Miguel received assistance from a lady who alerted the local agency for the defence of children and adolescents (the 'defenders') about the situation. Miguel was admitted to the local hospital to be treated. The defenders did not have financial resources to transfer him to his place of origin following his treatment and so the case was brought to World Vision Bolivia who were able to bring Miguel back to his region to be placed in the care of the defenders in that place. Working with Miguel and the local defenders, World Vision was able to re-integrate Miguel with his parents after nine months. Today, Miguel is to be found in his community, goes to school and lives with his family.

World Vision is working with the local defenders in a number of communities to support their capacity to respond to exploitation of children. So far more than 20 agencies have been trained.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Domestic labour is another highly prevalent and global form of children's exploitation. More than 15.5 million children are currently in child domestic labour worldwide, nearly half of which (7.4 million) are aged 5-14.²³ Most are in Asia, Africa and Latin America²⁴, although it is important to note that the numbers in Europe and the United States are not insignificant. Over half (8.1 million) of child domestic workers are exploited in hazardous labour,²⁵ an 'extremely conservative' estimate that doesn't include child domestic work involving bonded labour or slavery-like conditions.²⁶

²³ ILO (2011) *Children in hazardous work: what we know, what we need to do*, Geneva: ILO, p. 28.

²⁴ International Labour Organisation, 'Questions and answers on the hidden reality of children in domestic work', <www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/insight/WCMS_160515/lang-en/index.htm> [accessed 17 December 2011].

²⁵ ILO (2011) *Children in hazardous work: what we know, what we need to do*, Geneva: ILO, p. 28.

²⁶ Ibid.

Thony's story* – Haiti

"I love reading – that's what I like to do, but I'm not too good at it," says twelve-year-old Thony, sitting at the big dining table at World Vision's Interim Care Centre for separated children, near the Dominican Republic border. "I read in English, French, Creole, whatever. Spanish, too."

Thony's multilingualism is down to the fact he spent more than a year working at the huge market at Malpasse, on the Haiti/Dominican Republic border, after fleeing an abusive childhood in Port au Prince. "At the border I learnt Spanish, some English. I had to, to get by," he explains.

"My mother went to Santo Domingo. She said she had to take care of some business over there but she never came back," he explains. "I was ten years old."

Thony was sent away from his family to live in another home, where he ended up trapped in domestic labour. "They put me with a family who was treating me badly. The lady was making me carry buckets of water every day. Her children were beating me all of the time. They were sending me also to buy things for the whole house."

"I don't remember exactly when I ran away from the bad family," Thony continues. "I've been at the border a long time."

Many predators lurk, ready to exploit children like Thony. "When [the children] go outside they don't know that people who approach them aren't being good to them," says a Centre staff member. "That they can be trafficked, sometimes for their organs. For children to understand this is very difficult."

World Vision's Interim Care Centre provides shelter, food and access to education and health care. "It is better here," says Thony. "They are treating us very well. We play sport every morning. I like playing soccer. I don't have to work anymore, and I still go to classes."

World Vision's staff are trying to reunite Thony with his family. If they can't, they will find him long term accommodation with an approved foster family.

"I'd like to finish with my school and to learn something that will help me in my life," says Thony. "I don't want to go to the streets and work in the market anymore."

*Names have been changed to protect identities.



Thony at World Vision's Interim Care Centre.

ILO Convention No 182 includes the forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict as a worst form of child labour. Up to 250,000 children are exploited each day in state-run armies, paramilitaries and guerrilla groups around the world. These “child soldiers” serve as combatants, porters, human mine detectors and sexual slaves. Their health and lives are endangered and their childhoods are sacrificed.

Children suffer higher mortality, disease, and injury rates in combat situations than adults. The lasting effects of war and abuse may also remain with them long after the shooting stops. Both girls and boys may be stigmatised and traumatised by their experience and left with neither family connections nor skills to allow them to transition successfully into productive adult lives. For example, World Vision’s work with children formerly associated with armed groups in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo found that these children often struggled to concentrate in school and displayed aggressive behaviour. Parents also struggled to reintegrate such children into their families.²⁷

What’s it worth?

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has estimated that human trafficking is the third biggest transnational, organised crime in the world, behind drugs and arms. In 2005, an attempt was made to estimate global profits from forced labour exploited by private enterprises or agents: \$44 billion USD annually - \$32 billion USD of it from trafficking victims.²⁸ Forced labour and trafficking into industrialised countries was found to be most profitable. However, no data was available for children. The UN has since claimed that children count for over 20% of victims of human trafficking.²⁹

The global criminal online child pornography industry (production and distribution) is estimated to be worth between \$3 billion and \$20 billion USD.³⁰ Brokers who work to recruit people for labour exploitation in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand can earn between \$43 and \$72 USD per transaction.³¹ According to estimates, big tobacco companies benefitted from \$40 million USD in unpaid child labour costs in Malawi from 2000-2004.³² In a 2010 report on commercial cannabis production in the UK, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) identified that children constituted approximately 2% of labourers in cannabis factories. The estimated value of the recovered plants over the same period was £150 million.³³ Though, according to ACPO, children may not be a significant proportion of labourers forced to cultivate cannabis in the UK, their labour contributes to sizeable profits for their exploiters.

As we have seen, reliable global data related to child exploitation does not exist. The statements above should be viewed only as an indication that those who are involved in the commercial exploitation of children are receiving incredible profits.

²⁷ World Vision Africa (2006) *Their future in our hands: Children displaced by conflicts in Africa’s Great Lakes Region*, p. 21. The issues surrounding child soldiers and children affected by armed conflict are only considered in brief here. Further attention will be given to these issues in a forthcoming World Vision report.

²⁸ Patrick Belser (2005) *Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits*, ILO Working Paper 42, p. iii.

²⁹ UN Office of Drugs and Crime, *UNODC report on human trafficking exposes modern form of slavery*, <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

³⁰ UN Human Rights Council (2009) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Najat M’jid Maalla, A/HRC/12/23*, <<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4ab0d35a2.html>> [accessed 10 December 2011] p. 10.

³¹ United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (2007) *SIREN Field Report*, Bangkok.

³² M. G. Otañez, M. E. Muggli, R. D. Hurt, S. A. Glantz (2006) ‘Eliminating child labour in Malawi: a British American Tobacco corporate responsibility project to sidestep tobacco labour exploitation’, *Tobacco control*, Vol. 15, pp. 224-230.

³³ ACPO (2010) *UK National Problem Profile: Commercial cultivation of cannabis. Three years on ...*, <<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2010/201008CRICCC01.pdf>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

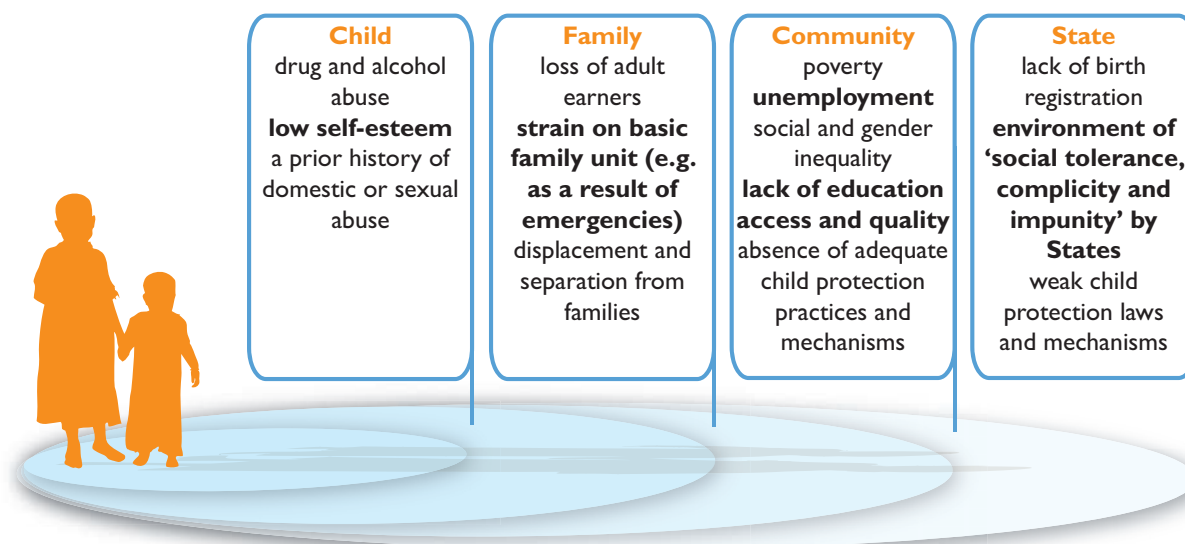
4. When push comes to shove: children's vulnerability to exploitation

The trade in children, like any market, operates under a principle of supply and demand. Various 'push' and 'pull' factors work together to increase children's vulnerability to being exploited as part of a global trade. In this chapter we consider the factors that push children towards exploitation, and identify some current and emerging trends which are likely to exacerbate these factors over the next decade, turning push into shove for millions of the world's most vulnerable children. In the next chapter we consider the impact of some 'pull' factors, particularly those emanating from the UK and linked to the wider phenomenon of globalisation.

What pushes children into exploitative situations?

'Push' factors can operate at five levels: the child, the family, the community, nationally and internationally. Here our concern is primarily with the first four, though we will give some attention to factors at the international level as we consider current and emerging trends.

The diagram below illustrates some of the push factors that increase children's vulnerability to exploitative situations:



Many of these factors are common to exploited children, whatever the form of exploitation and sector in which they end up. Study after study identifies these factors as key drivers of vulnerability. For example, 90% of 13 to 17 year old girls who reported receiving money or goods for sex in a recent national survey of violence against children in Tanzania reported childhood physical violence by a relative, compared to 65.6% of 13 to 17 year old girls who did not report receiving money or goods for sex. The same study identified that children's vulnerability was compounded by the influence of poverty and a weak social protection framework to protect vulnerable children.³⁴ The decrease in parental care and resulting psychological and emotional stress experienced by children when one or more parents migrates can result in increased, risky behaviour and significantly increases risks for children to be physically and sexually abused or exploited. This is particularly the case when the mother migrates.³⁵ Adolescent girls can be forced to stop their schooling to care for siblings following emergencies, and can become 'stranded' in poverty, unable to earn a living, and become at greater risk of sexual exploitation.³⁶

³⁴ UNICEF, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (2011) *Violence Against Children in Tanzania: Findings from a national survey 2009*, Dar es Salaam: United Republic of Tanzania.

³⁵ Rodolfo de la Garza (2010) *Migration, Development and Children left behind: a multidimensional perspective*. New York: UNICEF.

³⁶ UNICEF (2011) *The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence - an age of opportunity*. New York: UNICEF, p. 59.

How is this being exacerbated by current and emerging trends?

Several current and emerging global trends are increasing children's vulnerability to exploitation by exacerbating some of the push factors identified here.

Firstly, the interaction between poverty, fragility and cycles of violence is likely to affect more children over the next decade. Poverty is a key 'push' factor in children's vulnerability to exploitation, pushing them towards exploitative situations as they struggle to obtain what they need to survive on a daily basis. Though global poverty can be said to be declining³⁷, the proportion of poor people living in fragile states³⁸ is increasing, and will continue to do so. Whereas only 20 percent of the world's poor lived in fragile states in 2005, this is likely to exceed 50 percent by 2014.³⁹

Fragile contexts are those where a government cannot or will not act on its responsibility to protect and fulfil the rights of the majority of the population, particularly the poor.⁴⁰ In fragile states basic accountability relationships between governments and citizens are weak or broken. This failure of governance can weaken child protection systems. For even where states are willing, they are often unable to ensure the existence of strong, functioning systems that respond to child protection issues at the local level.

For example, a recent assessment by World Vision Somalia of child protection in Somaliland indicates that although plans are in place to strengthen the national child protection system, the existence of child protection mechanisms at local level is sparse. Community members participating in the assessment, including children, could name very few, if any, local capacities for child protection. Religious leaders were seen to be most instrumental in dealing with child protection issues at the community level, though this was through customary and Shari'a law.⁴¹

Moreover, there is a strong correlation between violence and fragility: fragility perpetuates violence and violence perpetuates fragility.⁴² Both act together to compound poverty and exacerbate push factors that make children vulnerable to exploitation.⁴³ Women and girls displaced by violence are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation as structures and practices that protect children from exploitation, including the basic family unit, are weakened and livelihood strategies disrupted.⁴⁴

Repeated organised violence is increasing and can take many forms. These include: 'local violence involving militias or between ethnic groups, gang violence, local resource-related violence and violence linked to trafficking (particularly drug trafficking), and violence associated with global ideological struggles'.⁴⁵ Children themselves can become involved in violence as a means to earn an income and secure a better life.

³⁷ Laurence Chandy and Geoffrey Gertz (2001) *Poverty in Numbers: The Changing State of Global Poverty from 2005 to 2015*, Brookings Global Views Policy Brief 2011-01, p. 3.

³⁸ There is no universally accepted list of what countries are considered fragile; fragility is a spectrum and therefore all states have some element of fragility. A number of indices have been used to rank the relative fragility of different states, and World Vision's fragility index represents a composite.

³⁹ Laurence Chandy and Geoffrey Gertz (2001) *Poverty in Numbers: The Changing State of Global Poverty from 2005 to 2015*, Brookings Global Views Policy Brief 2011-01, p. 10.

⁴⁰ World Vision's definition is based on that in UK Department for International Development (2005) *Why we need to work more effectively in fragile states*, London: Department for International Development.

⁴¹ World Vision Somalia (2011) *Community Based Child Protection Systems Assessment*. Unpublished document.

⁴² Erik Alda and Alys M. Willman (2009) 'Bottom-Up State Building', *Development Outreach*, Volume 11, Number 2, pp. 26-28.

⁴³ According to the World Development Report 2011, poverty rates are 20 percentage points higher in countries affected by repeated cycles of violence over the last three decades. Every year of violence in a country is associated with lagging poverty reduction of nearly one percentage point. See World Bank (2011) *The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development*, Washington D.C.: World Bank.

⁴⁴ For example, recent conflict in Nepal has increased girls' vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation by pushing them in to work in massage parlours and dance restaurants to survive, following the death or disappearance of thousands of men and the dislocation of rural populations to towns and cities. ECPAT (2011) *Global Monitoring Report: Nepal*, Bangkok: ECPAT, p. 8.

⁴⁵ World Bank (2011) *The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development*, Washington D.C.: World Bank, p. 53.

Rafael's story* – Colombia

At age 12 Rafael left his family's small farm to join the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). He was enticed with promises of an easy life and good pay. The reality of being a FARC soldier, he soon discovered, was something else entirely.

Indoctrinated in the ways of the left-wing guerrilla group, Rafael learned to handle a variety of weapons, construct small but lethal bombs, and look after hostages kidnapped and ransomed by the FARC. He received no salary, was forced to do hard labour, and was told he would be killed if he tried to run away.

Rafael's eventual break from the FARC very nearly cost him his life. A fierce attack by a Colombian army patrol scattered his unit, killed six of his fellow guerrillas and left him gravely wounded. Two soldiers wanted to finish him off, but another intervened and his life was spared.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Source: World Vision LACRO (2007) *Faces of Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean*, San Jose: World Vision.

Secondly, the increasing number of extreme weather events is likely to push more children into labour exploitation over the next decade and separate children from their families.

According to the Centre for Research on Epidemiology and Disasters (CRED), the average number of natural disasters has more than doubled from 132 a year over 1980-1985, to 357 a year between 2005-9.⁴⁶ Most disasters are related to weather extremes.⁴⁷ This trend is set to continue.⁴⁸

With families and communities often playing the most influential role in the quality of care that children receive and their protection from abuse and exploitation, increased movement associated with extreme weather events is a particular concern. For example, with the recent drought in the Horn of Africa, World Vision has noted that some children are spending more time alone looking for food and water and running away from home to major towns. Moreover, family members and those with responsibility to care for children are leaving children alone for prolonged periods of time in order to find food and water for their family.

Children's involvement in hazardous labour will also be increasingly affected by extreme weather events. Climate change and associated changes in weather, in both Africa and South Asia, will reduce overall crop yield, leading to families having to adopt alternative survival strategies.⁴⁹ For the poorest households these include sending children to work instead of school. As such, it is increasingly likely that children will be engaged in more informal economic activities, which will increase their vulnerability to exploitation.⁵⁰

Thirdly, greater numbers of women and youth are migrating. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) identifies the 'feminisation of migration' as a current trend in global migration. Women are increasingly participating in formal or informal labour migration in their own right rather than migrating as a dependent or to be reunited with family.⁵¹ This is particularly concerning given the impacts of mothers' migration on children's vulnerability to exploitation noted above.

⁴⁶ D. Guha-Sapir, F. Vos, R. Below with S. Ponslerre (2011) *Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2010: The Numbers and Trends*. Brussels: CRED.

⁴⁷ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) *Disaster Risk and Climate Change*, <<http://www.unisdr.org/en/risk-reduction/climate-change/climate-change.html>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

⁴⁸ UNDP (2011) *Human Development Report 2011*, New York: UNDP, drawing on IPCC (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report Climate Change*. Geneva: IPCC.

⁴⁹ J.W. Knox, T.M. Hess, A. Daccache and M. Perez Ortola (2011) *What are the projected impacts of climate change on food crop productivity in Africa and S Asia?* DFID Systematic Review Final Report, Cranfield University.

⁵⁰ Emmanuel Skoufias, Mariano Rabassa and Sergio Olivieri (2011) *The poverty impacts of climate change: a review of the evidence*, Policy Research Working Paper 5622, Washington D.C.: World Bank.

Alongside this trend, there is a likely increase in child migration for economic opportunity in developing countries due to high youth populations and low development and employment opportunities.⁵² Migration can increase children's risk of being abused, exploited and trafficked. Migrant children, especially unaccompanied children, are more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labour and sex trafficking.⁵³ Migrant child labourers are often worse off than local child labourers. They have less pay and access to education, longer hours, and higher death rates at work.⁵⁴

Fourthly, increasing financial interconnectedness will ensure that effects of recession in the North will continue to impact children in the South. Impacts of past financial crises on children are a useful indication of some of the impacts this current and continuing global recession will have on children's vulnerability to exploitation. A 2009 review by the Overseas Development Institute found that,

'Increases in child mortality and morbidity, child labour, child exploitation, violence against children and women and other forms of abuse, alongside declines in school attendance and the quality of education, nurture, care and emotional wellbeing, can all be traced to times of economic crisis.'⁵⁵

The review found that those children already in the lowest income households were 'subject to the added risk of being trafficked or compelled to engage in hazardous forms of work'. It also found that times of economic crisis were likely to increase domestic violence within households.⁵⁶ Increased violence in the home is a key 'push' factor in children's exploitation. In focus group discussions with young people in Cambodia, for example, World Vision found that 'domestic violence pushes children to leave their home and end up in situations where they are sexually exploited, sometimes in brothels.'⁵⁷ Indeed, one of World Vision's primary interventions across contexts to address exploitation of children is working to combat domestic violence.

Moreover, the formal labour market has contracted as a result of the global recession, reducing young people's chances of finding work in the formal economy.⁵⁸ The shrinking of formal sector labour opportunities open to young people potentially increases their risk of entering the (often hazardous) informal economy. Indeed, new analysis by the risk analysis firm, Maplecroft, has revealed that the number of countries posing 'extreme child labour complicity risks' has risen by 10% to 76 countries between 2010-2011, in part as a result of the economic downturn.⁵⁹

The ILO is concerned that the global recession could erode progress made in the last ten years to reduce child labour.⁶⁰ As the poorest and most vulnerable people are most likely to become trapped in child labour and forced labour, it is 'likely that as more families fall into economic hardship, the ranks of child and forced labourers will also increase before the crisis abates'.⁶¹ The situation for girls is of particular concern, as the gap between male and female unemployment rates grew in most developing regions during the crisis, exacerbating the problems girls already face in finding work.⁶²

⁵² ILO (2011) *Migration and child labour essentials*, Geneva: ILO.

⁵³ UN Human Rights Council (2009) *Human rights of migrants: migration and the human rights of the child*, Human Rights Council resolution, 12 October 2009 (A/HRC/RES/12/6).

⁵⁴ Evidence from ILO country and sector studies (Kazakhstan: tobacco industry; India: cotton sector; West Africa: cocoa farms), referenced in ILO (2011) *Migration and child labour essentials*, Geneva: ILO, p. 3.

⁵⁵ Caroline Harper, Nicola Jones, Andy McKay, Jessica Espey (2009) *Children in times of economic crisis: past lessons, future policies*. ODI Background Note, May 2009, p. 1.

⁵⁶ *Ibid*, p. 3.

⁵⁷ World Vision Cambodia (2006) *As if they were watching my body*, Phnom Penh: World Vision Cambodia, p. 44.

⁵⁸ ILO (2010) *Global Employment Trends for Youth: Special issue on the impact of the global economic crisis on youth*, Geneva: ILO, chapter 3.

⁵⁹ Maplecroft (2012) *Human Rights Atlas 2012*, < <http://maplecroft.com/themes/hr/> > [accessed 10 December 2011].

⁶⁰ ILO (2009) *Give girls a chance: Tackling child labour, a key to the future*, Geneva: ILO, p. v.

⁶¹ United States Department of Labor (2009) *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, Washington D.C.: US Department of Labor, p. 29.

⁶² UNICEF (2011) *The State of the World's Children*, New York: UNICEF, p. 46.

5. Bringing it home: the UK's role in the global trade in children

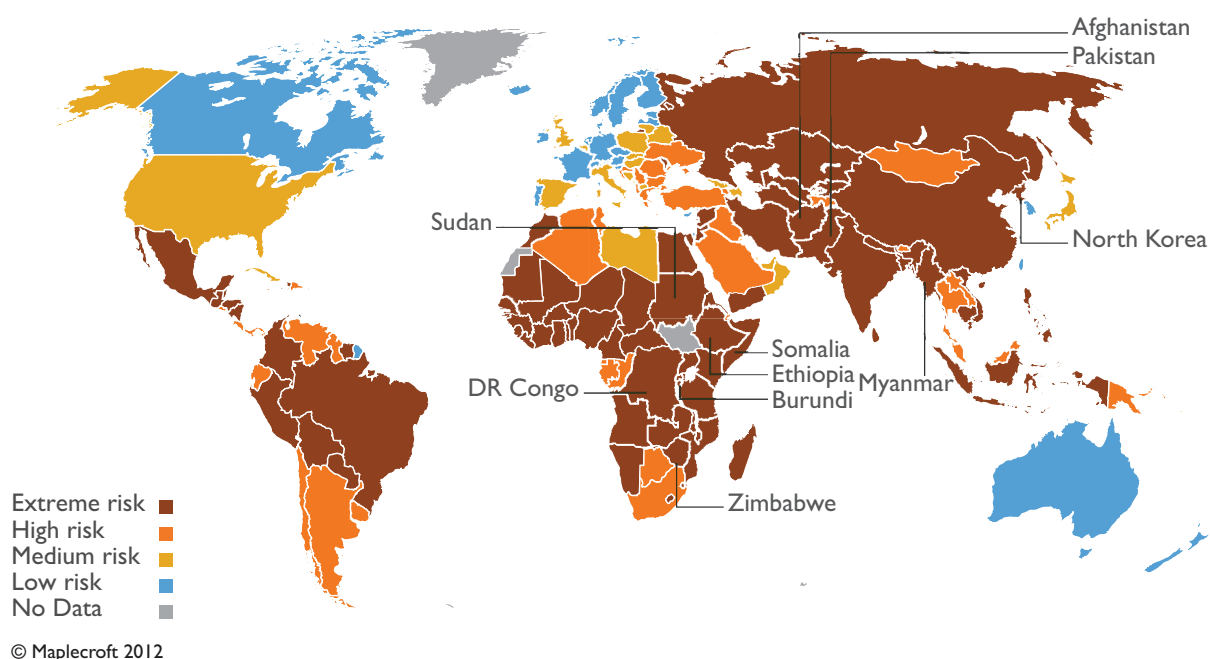
Though our focus in this report is on the exploitation of children from some of the world's poorest countries, the interconnected nature of our 21st century world means that the UK is complicit in today's global trade in children, by both stimulating demand for exploitation and failing to hold perpetrators to account. In this chapter, we focus on four areas in particular: consumption of goods made using the worst forms of child labour, exploitation of children who are trafficked into the UK, exploitation of children overseas by UK residents and citizens and UK Government support to foreign militaries that use child soldiers. Trends stimulating this involvement include high rates of consumption, advancements in travel and technology, and a greater focus on security in UK policy.

Consumption of goods made using forced child labour

In the last few decades, global rates of consumption have grown rapidly alongside high levels of economic growth. The global economy is still growing even now, despite the slowdown in growth from the economic recession (gross world product increased by 0.3 percent in 2009, compared to a yearly average increase of 6.6 percent from 2000–08).⁶³ Globalisation has led to the expansion of outsourcing and increased access to goods and products manufactured globally by both consumers and manufacturers/distributors. This has led to increasing concern about the use of child labour in supply chains with many children in the worst forms of child labour producing goods for the global economy.

Indeed, in its annual Child Labour Index, designed to enable companies to identify the risk of child labour being used within their supply chains, the risk analysis firm, Maplecroft, classifies 40% of the 197 countries included as posing an 'extreme risk' (see map below).⁶⁴ The top 10 countries identified as posing an extreme risk are: Myanmar, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Burundi, Pakistan, and Ethiopia.

Figure: Risk of underage workers within labour markets by country



Source: Maplecroft (2012) Human Rights Atlas 2012.

⁶³ See Worldwatch Institute (2011) *Vital signs 2011*, <<http://www.worldwatch.org>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

⁶⁴ Maplecroft (2012) *Human Rights Atlas 2012*, <<http://maplecroft.com/themes/hr/>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

Tobacco and child labour in Malawi

A 2011 assessment by World Vision, which involved local government, police, communities and children, in one of its operational areas in Malawi found that every year thousands of children and their families are brought to the area to work predominantly in tobacco farms. Parents voluntarily go to farms to earn enough income to survive and children as young as nine are often required to support the family's income. Statistics from the community child protection worker indicate that up to 12% of the people working in the tobacco farms are ages 10-14. Another 4% are aged 15-18. Community interviews indicate that child labour is much higher on the tobacco farms than in the other farms, is increasing, and is a key child protection concern.

A common problem of those harvesting and sorting the tobacco leaves is green tobacco sickness. This is brought about by nicotine absorption through the skin and results in severe headaches and racking coughs, leading to chest problems because they are not provided with protective clothing. A report by Plan International found that most children working on tobacco farms in Malawi are exposed to the same level of nicotine as they would get from smoking 50 cigarettes a day. World Vision's assessment also found that children involved in tobacco production face other problems, including physical abuse and sexual abuse in exchange for more money, food and clothes. Children who try to combine working on the tobacco farm and going to school end up missing more than half of the school term. Although child labour is illegal in Malawi, with a penalty of five years in jail and fines, no one from the community had ever been prosecuted.

Jellad's story*

Jellad worked in tobacco farms for two years before being rescued by a Child Protection Committee supported by World Vision in his community. He was recruited along with his family at age nine by a farm owner touring villages to find workers. The poverty experienced by his family led them to go with the owner voluntarily as farm tenants. The farm owner would insist on a quota of one and half carts of tobacco leaves being harvested each day. The only way Jellad's mother and father could meet the quota was by having their three children help in the harvest.

As tenant farmers the family only received their income after the tobacco was sold. During the tobacco growing season they borrowed money from the farm owner and ended up in debt, becoming bonded labourers. Jellad and his family were not provided with protective clothing and so contracted green tobacco sickness. Jellad was also absent from school more than half of the school term as he was helping with the tobacco harvest.

“We almost dropped out of school because of this as we had to fend for ourselves and also to give a hand to our parents,” said Jellad.

Right: Jellad in the tobacco nursery

*Names have been changed to protect identities.



A number of products that involve child slavery, forced child labour or work in extremely hazardous conditions have links to the UK. For example, significant amounts of tobacco from Malawi, notorious for their use of child labour in production, end up in the UK. In 2010, the UK imported 3,205,400 tonnes of tobacco from Malawi, the value of which was around £8 million.

There are also strong links between the production of electronics to meet a growing demand and hazardous labour. Mobile phone usage is growing at a staggering rate. According to Wireless Intelligence, there were more than 5 billion mobile phone connections worldwide in 2010, the figure increasing by more than a billion over the preceding 18 months. Six billion connections are predicted by 2012. This figure underestimates the actual number of phones in existence though, with 10 billion phones having been sold worldwide since 1994.⁶⁵

Figures from December 2008 put the number of mobile phones in the United Kingdom at 75,750,000. According to these statistics, in 2008 there were over 1.2 mobile phones per person in the United Kingdom.⁶⁶ Current figures are likely to be much higher.

The production of mobile phones requires an array of minerals, including coltan or tantalum (which is heat resistant and is the material that enables phones to be hand-held), cassiterite (tin ore used for soldering components together) and tungsten (which enables phones to vibrate). Children are often involved in the extraction of these minerals. For example, it is estimated that up to 40% of workers in many of the DRC's artisanal mines, which produce tantalum, cassiterite and tungsten, as well as copper, gold and diamonds, are children.⁶⁷ In some areas of Eastern DRC armed groups prey on the mining sector and children who have been conscripted into armed groups have to undertake mining activities.⁶⁸

Child labour and mobile phone manufacturers in the UK

Between October and December 2011, World Vision contacted 20 mobile phone manufacturers with a sales base in the UK and asked them the following questions:

- 1 Do you use any or all of the following materials in the production of your mobile phones – coltan (tantalum), cassiterite (tin ore), tungsten?
- 2 For these materials – do you know where they are sourced originally?
- 3 How do you try to ensure child labour is not used in any part of your production process or supply chain?

The following 12 companies replied: Apple, Dell, HTC Corp, Huawei, INQ, Lenovo, LG Electronics, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Research in Motion, Samsung Telecommunications. Different levels of response were received – two would not comment from these companies and several companies did not respond to our request at all.

The primary issue highlighted by the majority of companies that responded was the lack of transparency from the companies that turn the raw minerals into something manufacturers can use. It is not always possible for manufacturers to identify where minerals have come from that form the constituent parts for their products. As a result, mobile phone companies are unlikely to be able to say child labour is categorically not used anywhere in the process despite the majority of companies contacted for this research having a 'child labour avoidance' clause in their supplier codes of conduct.

⁶⁵ BBC News (2010) 'Over 5 billion mobile phone connections worldwide', <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10569081>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

⁶⁶ Cellular-news.com (2009) 'Vodafone Sees Loss of UK Market Share and Lower ARPUs', 23 April 2009 <<http://www.cellular-news.com/story/37159.php?s=h>> [accessed 11 December 2011].

⁶⁷ Pact Inc. (2010). PROMINES Study: *Artisanal Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo*, Washington, D.C.: Pact Inc.

⁶⁸ Resource Consulting Services (2011) *Artisanal Mining and Child Well-Being in DRC: The role for World Vision*. Unpublished document.



Child mining copper in Southern DRC.
©2008 Horeb Bulambo/World Vision

Advocacy efforts and corporate initiatives have tended to focus on the role of the mineral trade in perpetuating the conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, however, less has been done in relation to addressing child labour issues. World Vision research involving 12 mobile phone companies with a market presence in the UK has found evidence that mobile phone companies are unlikely to be able to say child labour is categorically not used anywhere in the process of mobile phone manufacture.

And it's not just products bought by individuals that have a high likelihood of child labour in some part of the supply chain. Publicly funded institutions have also been found to purchase products involving child labour. For example, in 2008 the National Health Service (NHS) admitted that child workers were used in the manufacture of surgical instruments for UK hospitals.⁶⁹ According to Fair Med Trade, an organisation founded in 2007 to promote ethical trade in the production of medical supplies and funded by the Department of Health and the British Medical Association, the NHS spends £20 billion on procurement of healthcare products and services each year. At least 20 percent of surgical instruments bought by the NHS are produced in northern Pakistan, where children as young as seven work in hazardous conditions.⁷⁰

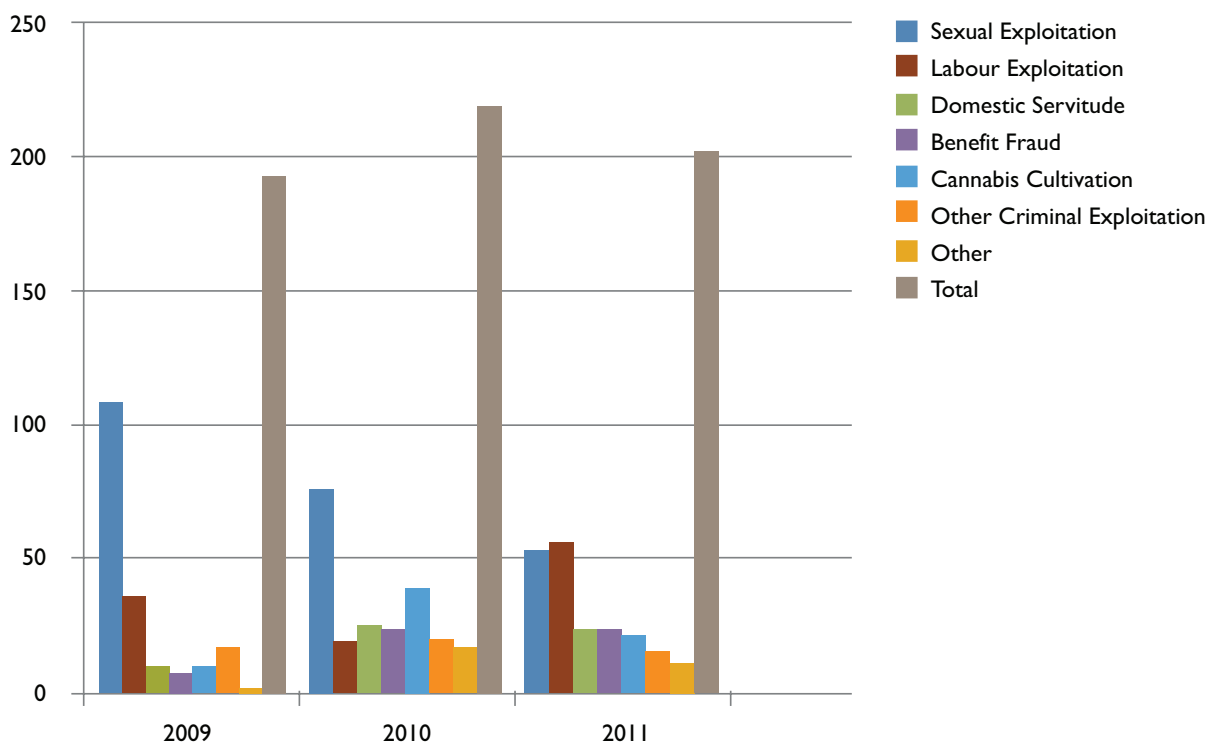
⁶⁹ James Randerson (2008) 'Revealed: child labour used to make NHS instruments', *Guardian Newspaper* <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/dec/08/nhs-instruments-child-labour>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

⁷⁰ Fair Med Trade (<http://www.fairmedtrade.org.uk>) citing Mahmood F. Bhutta (2007) 'Fair trade for surgical instruments', *British Medical Journal*, Vol. 333, pp. 297–99.

Exploitation of children who have been trafficked into the UK

Each year children are trafficked into the UK from across the world. According to the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), which produces a regular 'strategic threat assessment' that pulls together data from UK statutory agencies and third sector organisations, 300-400 children are trafficked into the UK annually. These children are from a variety of countries including: China, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Romania, and Vietnam, and experience various types of exploitation, as the graph below shows.

Graph: Types of exploitation experienced by children trafficked into the UK



Source: Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre.⁷¹

The Government acknowledges that available figures for child trafficking into the UK are likely to be underestimated. Although the statistics must not be seen as absolute, certain trends are emerging amongst children who are identified as victims of trafficking. These trends include:

- **Trafficking of children into and within the UK for work in cannabis production** – most are Vietnamese boys aged 13 to 17 exploited as 'gardeners' in cannabis factories. CEOP expects the level of trafficking for cannabis production to increase or remain as a major trend. They also expect children will be at greater risk of violence in cannabis production due to increased competition and involvement from British and other non-Vietnamese people.
- **Child trafficking from West Africa** – children from Africa, Nigeria in particular, often arrive in the UK disguised as family members of the traffickers and are then exploited in non-registered private fostering arrangements with the abuse hidden and occurring in private houses. Exploitation commonly includes domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and benefit fraud.

Interestingly, Maplecroft, in its annual 2012 Child Labour Index, identified a worsening of the UK's record on protecting children from exploitation in the workplace due to the large numbers of children trafficked to the UK and within its borders for exploitation. The UK was rated a 'medium risk' country whereas other Western nations tended to be rated 'low risk'.⁷²

⁷¹ Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre (2009), *Strategic Threat Assessment Child Trafficking in the UK*, p. 51; CEOP Centre (2010) *Strategic Threat Assessment Child Trafficking in the UK*, p. 16; CEOP Centre (2011) *Child Trafficking Update*, p. 9.

⁷² Maplecroft (2012) *Human Rights Atlas 2012*, < <http://maplecroft.com/themes/hr/> > [accessed 10 December 2011].

Involvement of UK citizens in children's exploitation overseas

Increased transport links in an ever-more connected world, have led to a boom in global tourism. Statistics show that in 2010 there were 55,562,000 visits abroad by UK residents. This compares to just 31,150,000 twenty years earlier.⁷³ Increasing foreign travel by UK nationals can contribute to the exploitation of children overseas through sexual or other forms of exploitation, either knowingly or unknowingly.

Though it is extremely difficult to obtain data on the number of British travellers who each year sexually exploit children overseas due to the hidden nature of the activity, ECPAT UK collected data on over 120 cases between the early 1990s and 2008.⁷⁴ Case evidence shows that British travellers and expatriates have been involved in the abuse and exploitation of children in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Thailand, Gambia, the Dominican Republic, and Sri Lanka. Other anecdotal and national level evidence suggests that the problem goes much further and that many more travelling sex offenders evade detection or prosecution each year.

British citizen convicted of sexual abuse of children in Cambodia

On 8 September 2011, British citizen Michael John Leach, a former senior UK Government policy adviser, was found guilty of paying for sex with three underage girls in Cambodia. He was arrested in Phnom Penh for procuring sex with three girls, aged between 10-16 years old, in September 2010 after the guest house he was staying at was raided. The three girls, two of whom had allegedly been with him for six days – were with him when he was arrested.

He paid the mother of one of the children £3,000 for week-long sexual access to the girl. The mother of the child who received the money, a taxi driver who helped to procure the girls and the owner of the guesthouse were also found guilty at the trial.

Leach was previously arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing five children in 2005 while posing as a doctor in an orphanage, but was released without charge.

Leach is now serving a 12 year sentence in a Cambodian jail, after which he will be deported back to the UK.

Source: The Cambodia Daily, 'Foreign Pedophile Put Behind Bars – Again', Friday September 9 2011.

As well as British tourists, Britain's expatriates, volunteers or professionals working with children abroad, such as teachers and social workers, the military or aid workers, have also been involved in the sexual exploitation of children overseas.⁷⁵ For example, in 2010 cases involving UK nationals included: the conviction of a British man in Cambodia after emigrating to South East Asia in 2006 and establishing two orphanages, in one of which he was found guilty of sexually abusing the occupants; and the conviction of two British men, one of whom was a social therapy nurse working at an orphanage, for 'sexual relations with minors'.⁷⁶

It is not simply through sexual exploitation by British nationals that children are exploited through tourism. British tourists abroad can be unknowingly complicit in other forms of exploitation of children. Many children exploited in tourist areas are in the worst forms of child labour. These include forced begging, street vending (e.g. flowers, handicrafts, food and drinks), shoe-shining, rickshaw pulling and bar/restaurant work. Tourist actions, for example giving money to a child begging or selling postcards in red light districts, can serve to keep children on the streets where they are at greater risk of exploitation. A concerning trend of 'orphanage tourism' is also being identified in countries such as Cambodia and Nepal, where naïve travellers wanting to 'make a difference' are given the opportunity to work with children. In some cases, the 'orphanages' are set up by opportunistic people and children placed in their institutions, simply to provide this service to foreigners.⁷⁷

⁷³ Office for National Statistics (2011) *Travel Trends 2010*, London: ONS.

⁷⁴ ECPAT UK (2008) *British Child Sex Offenders Abroad*, Discussion Paper, London: ECPAT.

⁷⁵ ECPAT (2011) *Off the Radar: Protecting Children from British Sex Offenders who Travel*, Bangkok: ECPAT, p. 7.

⁷⁶ BBC News, 'Two Britons jailed for Cambodia child sex offences', 11 March 2011 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-12719598>> [accessed 7 December 2011]; BBC News, 'British pair jailed for Albania orphanage abuse', 12 January 2010 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/8455477.stm>> [accessed 7 December 2011].

⁷⁷ See <http://www.thinkchildsafe.org/thinkbeforevisiting/>

Funding militaries that use children in armed conflict

As we have seen in chapter 4, repeated organised violence is on the rise.⁷⁸ This increasing global instability has led to greater international attention to fragile contexts and the challenge of promoting stability and security within these. In the UK this has led to the securitisation of UK overseas policy and the development of a cross-government 'National Security Strategy' and a 'Building Stability Overseas Strategy' to guide the UK's efforts in defence, development and foreign policy.^{79, 80} As part of this latter strategy, the UK makes a renewed commitment to providing funding and training to foreign militaries to build their capacity.

The Defence Assistance Fund (DAF), a Ministry of Defence fund, is designed to bear the cost of military assistance and training activities under the UK Government policy of Defence Diplomacy, which supports bilateral defence relationships to strengthen international security and co-operation.⁸¹ The DAF can be used to defray the costs of activities in countries where the UK has established close defence links, and training in interoperability, to increase UK capacity to assemble forces into an effective coalition in future.⁸² Whilst the funding may have legitimate aims, such as to combat corruption and improve security, some of these countries recruit and train children to fight.

According to the latest US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, child soldiers are currently known to be recruited for active service in government forces or government-supported armed groups in the following countries: Myanmar, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. The details of armed forces supported by the UK have yet to be publicised, but Somalia is on the list for funding both in the past under the previous government and currently.

⁷⁸ World Bank (2011) *The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development*, Washington D.C.: World Bank.

⁷⁹ Cabinet Office (2008) *The National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom: Security in an Interdependent World*, London: Cabinet Office.

⁸⁰ DFID, FCO and MOD (2001) *Building Stability Overseas Strategy*, London: Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence.

⁸¹ Dr Liam Fox, in response to a PQ, House of Commons 6 July 2011.

⁸² DGFM (2008) JSP 368: *The MoD Guide to Repayment Version 3.0*, London: Ministry of Defence.

6. Conclusion: setting an agenda for action

Global citizenship brings with it responsibilities beyond our borders. As global citizens we all have a part to play in ensuring that our actions do not serve to increase the vulnerability of children from some of the world's poorest countries to being exploited as part of a global market. With millions of children around the world being exploited and robbed of their childhood today, action to combat the global trade in children must be given the highest priority now. Below are 10 elements of an agenda for action which we believe will begin to make a difference. Over the next three years, it is World Vision's intention to work with families, communities, governments and businesses in the UK and in the countries where we work to pursue this agenda and see real change in the lives of the world's poorest children.

For the UK public

- **Demand to know where your products come from**

The only way to know whether products you use each day have been produced through child labour is by asking companies to provide you with evidence. Product certification systems, such as the 'Fairtrade' label, are a useful way of identifying that fair labour practices, including the avoidance of child labour, have been used in the manufacture of products. Manufacturers should be encouraged by consumers to work together to instigate such systems in their sectors.

Child labour versus child work

Not all work that children participate in is hazardous or exploitative. Child labour is defined as exploitative when it involves:

- too many hours spent working;
- work that causes too much physical or psychological stress;
- poor or dangerous working conditions;
- inadequate or no pay;
- too much responsibility;
- work that interferes with children's access to education;
- work that undermines children's dignity and self esteem;
- binding children to a work arrangement.

World Vision does not favour boycotts of products produced by child labour. Most children work because they have to. They are forced too because of poverty or separation from families. Boycotts of products that are produced by child labourers can take away their livelihood and force them into more dangerous or exploitative work as they try and find another source of income.

For this reason, World Vision, along with many other children's rights activists and non-government organisations, focuses on working to abolish the most extreme and hazardous forms of child labour, such as child prostitution, bonded labour, work involving very young children, and any work that is hazardous to children's physical, emotional or spiritual health. In situations where children must work, World Vision works with children to advocate for improvements to their working conditions, for instance to ensure they receive a fair wage and that the conditions are not hazardous, and to improve their access to education.

- **Practice ‘child safe tourism’**

Preventing child exploitation in tourism must include tourists as part of the solution. This is essentially what ‘child safe tourism’ means. For example, giving money to a child begging or selling postcards in red light districts might seem like a good way to help but it keeps children on the street where they are at greater risk from sexual exploitation. Responsible travellers interact with children in travel destinations on a daily basis. Tourists have the consumer power to impact the services provided by the travel industry, hotels and restaurants and ensure their businesses do not permit practices that harm children or put them at risk. They can also report anything suspicious to the local authorities and, instead of giving money directly to children on the streets, can contribute to children’s protection through giving to a reputable local organisation tackling the problem.

- **Insist that your taxes do not support child labour**

UK taxpayer money supports both the UK’s military assistance overseas and the purchasing of products for use in public institutions. As we have seen, both can inadvertently support the worst forms of child labour. UK taxpayers must ask the UK Government to provide evidence-backed guarantees that this is not the case.

For UK-based companies

- **Take steps to ensure greater transparency in supply chains and provide more robust guarantees that child labour has not been used in manufacturing of products.**

Concerned with being seen to do the right thing, UK companies need to get better at matching rhetoric with action in regards to child labour by actively identifying where it has been used in their supply chains. Many of the organisations and manufacturers involved in procuring goods and products from overseas which have a potential to be linked to child labour admit that there is a problem with supply chain transparency. For example, British American Tobacco, the largest importer of tobacco from Malawi into the UK market, has a Child Labour Policy which commits the company to protecting children from child labour exploitation throughout the supply chain.⁸³ However, they acknowledge that they are 4-5 steps removed from growers in Malawi and so, though there is a chance they are buying tobacco produced through child labour, they feel they are unable to do much about it.⁸⁴ In May 2011 the NHS launched ethical procurement guidelines to address the issue of poor labour practices, including child labour.⁸⁵ However, they also admit that child labour is difficult to root out as the problem is hidden in complex supply chains that bring the products they purchase into the European market.⁸⁶ Many of the mobile phone manufacturers we contacted admitted that they had little control over the labour practices of producers supplying minerals for use in their products.

- **Promote ‘child safe tourism’**

The travel and tourism industry have an important role to play in promoting ‘child safe tourism’. For example, by signing on to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, becoming more aware of the issues around child exploitation in tourism and providing tourists with information and advice when they travel.

⁸³ British American Tobacco, *Child Labour Policy*, <[http://www.bat.com/group/sites/uk__3mnfen.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO725ECW/\\$FILE/medMD725KV2.pdf?openelement](http://www.bat.com/group/sites/uk__3mnfen.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO725ECW/$FILE/medMD725KV2.pdf?openelement)> [accessed 18 December 2011].

⁸⁴ British American Tobacco, *Malawi: Child labour in tobacco*, <http://www.bat.com/group/sites/uk__3mnfen.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO86BLLZ?opendocument&SKN=1> [accessed 10 December 2011].

⁸⁵ Ethical Trading Initiative, the Medical Fair and Ethical Trade Group, Department of Health and British Medical Association, *Ethical procurement for health: workbook*, <http://www.ethicaltrade.org/sites/default/files/resources/EPH_Workbook.pdf> [accessed 15 December 2011].

⁸⁶ James Randerson (2008) ‘Revealed: child labour used to make NHS instruments’, *Guardian Newspaper* <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/dec/08/nhs-instruments-child-labour>> [accessed 10 December 2011].

For the UK Government

- **Strengthen child protection systems overseas through development, defence and foreign policies**

UK Government policy and action can serve to have either a positive or negative effect on strengthening child protection systems in the world's poorest countries. The factors that push children into exploitative situations are highly complex and inter-related. They operate at a number of levels and relate to various aspects of society and individuals, including: socio-cultural, economic, political, psychological and religious. Moreover, they are being exacerbated by current and emerging global dynamics related to a rapidly changing and shrinking world. As we have seen, these dynamics are unlikely to change. Instead, approaches to addressing children's vulnerability in the world's poorest places will need to. These approaches must focus on strengthening the systems around children that support their protection and decrease their vulnerability. Such an approach is crucial to ensuring that children do not fall through the gaps and end up in exploitative situations as push factors increase.

- **Develop responsible, transparent policies for UK Government procurement to ensure child labour has not been used in products and services purchased**

A number of procurement policies exist to guide UK Government spending on products and services. Little information is currently available on whether these address issues of child labour in supply chains.

- **Increase protection for children trafficked into the UK**

The child protection system in the UK has a strong focus on protecting British children. However, this child protection obligation extends to all children in the country – including those who have been trafficked into the UK from other countries. Currently, those who have been identified as trafficking victims face substantial obstacles in the system, including ineffective care and protection by local authorities and limited restorative support. The UK Government has acknowledged that work must be done to better safeguard children who have been trafficked and that implementation of guidance for local authorities and child protection bodies is “patchy”.⁸⁷

- **Protect children overseas from exploitation by British citizens and residents**

The UK Government has an obligation to protect children from exploitation and abuse by British citizens and residents overseas. This includes taking effective measures to prevent those at risk of offending from travelling to offend and working with national authorities in destination countries to identify potential offenders. Where sexual abuse does occur, it is better for prosecutions to take place in the country where the offence occurs. In this regard, it is important for the UK Government and law enforcement to collaborate with travelling offender destination countries in order to share information and intelligence as well as mutual assistance. As an alternative to local prosecution, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 allows for prosecution of UK citizens and in some cases, residents, for sexual crimes committed against children in other countries. Use of the powers under the Sexual Offences Act to prosecute UK *citizens* is patchy, UK *residents* cannot be prosecuted under the extraterritoriality provision of the Sexual Offences Act unless their action was also a criminal act in the country where the offense occurred.

- **End support to militaries which recruit and deploy child soldiers**

Although the UK Government has committed to ending the involvement of child soldiers in armed conflict,⁸⁸ child soldiers do actively serve on the frontline in some of the armies or government-supported paramilitaries of nations that receive UK foreign military financing and other military assistance. Transparency is lacking in relation to the UK Government's support for militaries whose policies related to the conscription and deployment of children to the frontline may contradict those of the UK.

⁸⁷ Department for Education, *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: Action Plan*, January 2011, para.97, p. 32.

⁸⁸ Reflected in their ratification of the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and membership of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.



Theresia, 8, outside her home in Tanzania.



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