

**CHILD TRAFFICKING AND THE
WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR
IN KAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE:
A MIXED METHODS STUDY**

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Establishing Baseline Prevalence, Understanding Stakeholder Perspectives, and Identifying Gaps in Policies and Services to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking

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ACRONYMS

APRIES African Programming and Research Institute to End Slavery

CenHTRO Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach

CMDA Conflict Management and Development Associates

CSO Civil Society Organization

CRC UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

DCISL Defence for Children International Sierra Leone

DEFF Design Effect

DOS US Department of State

EA Enumeration Area

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

FGD Focus Group Discussion

FSU Family Support Unit

GSI Global Slavery Index

HDI Human Development Index

IDI In-depth Interview

INGO International non-governmental organization

ILO International Labor Organisation

IOM International Organization for Migratio

IRB Institutional Review Boar

KII Key Informant Interview

MSE Multiple Systems Estimation

NGO Non-governmental organization

NSUM Network Scale-Up Model

ODK Open Data Kit

RAN ResilientAfrica Network

RDS Respondent Driven Sampling

SGD Sustainable Development Goal

SVI Stat View International

TIP Trafficking in Persons

TIP Office DOS Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

TOT Training of Trainers

TVPA Trafficking Victims Protection Act

UNAIDS The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

USAID United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Study Overview and Aims

In 2021, APRIES at the CenHTRO used mixed methods to conduct baseline community-based research in Kambia, Sierra Leone in collaboration with Africa-based research partner Conflict Management & Development Associates (CMDA-SL). In this executive summary, we briefly review study methodologies, findings, implications, and recommendations for policy and practice. Please see the full report for more detailed information and an extended discussion of each of these topics.

Methods Summary

The study aimed to:

1. Describe the nature of the problem and identify service and policy gaps regarding child trafficking in Kambia, Sierra Leone.
2. Estimate the baseline prevalence of child trafficking in Kambia, using both traditional survey methods and the Network Scale-up Method (NSUM).

Data were collected using:

1. Household surveys of 1,008 randomly sampled households.
2. In-depth interviews with 16 stakeholders including: 7 young adults (18–25 years old) who had experienced child trafficking, 7 parents/guardians of young people who had experienced child trafficking, and 2 key informants who had professional knowledge about the problem of child trafficking in Sierra Leone.
3. Focus group discussions with 4 groups of community members: 1) young adult women (n=10 participants, 18–34 years old), 2) adult women and elders (n=9 participants, over 35 years old), 3) young adult men (n=9 participants, 18–34 years old), 4) adult men and elders (n=10 participants, over 35 years old).

Key Study Findings Summary

In this section, we summarize key study findings from each of the following 7 sections:

1. Prevalence Estimates of Child Trafficking and Child Labor
2. Community Perspectives about Child Trafficking and Child Labor
3. Types of Child Labor and Child Trafficking Experienced
4. Exploitation that Involves Force, Fraud, or Coercion
5. Vulnerabilities to Child Labor and Child Trafficking
6. Perspectives about Leaving a Trafficking Situation and Re-integration Post-trafficking
7. Community Response to Child Trafficking & Recommendations

Note that summaries are reported in this section. Please refer to the findings section of this report for complete results.

1: PREVALENCE ESTIMATES¹

data source: household survey

1. One-year direct prevalence estimates (2020) for child trafficking² in Kambia indicated that among the household sample of children aged 5 – 17 years old:

- **39,155 children (33.52%)** are estimated to have experienced trafficking in the last year.

2. One-year direct prevalence estimates for child labor (2020), which encompasses child trafficking but also includes other forms of labor exploitation, indicated that among the household sample of children aged 5–17 years old in Kambia:

- **46,794 children (40.06%)** are estimated to have been involved in child labor in the last year.

3. The prevalence estimates produced by the Network Scale-Up Method (NSUM) were significantly lower than those produced by traditional survey techniques. More research is needed to determine the value of NSUM in estimating this hard-to-reach population in developing or under-developed countries³.

2: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOR

data source: focus group discussions

1. Community members indicated that they believe child trafficking is happening in their communities and that child trafficking is morally wrong. Some community members shared specific examples of trafficking cases that were known to them.

2. Conceptualizations of child trafficking by community members in Kambia included forced work, work without pay or benefit, and work that interfered with school attendance.

3. Some community members perceived gender as a risk factor, where girl children were described as being more likely to experience trafficking within a domestic setting.

¹Here we report direct prevalence estimates only, this is because direct prevalence estimates were found to be more reliable than NSUM estimates. For an in-depth reporting of NSUM and traditional survey method results as well as description of the differences in methodologies, please see the full findings.

²Note that the definitions of child labor and child trafficking are related. Child Labor is broadly defined as work that is harmful to physical and mental development, depriving children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. Child trafficking is the “worst forms of child labor”, where children are recruited, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained for labor, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion OR are engaged in commercial sex or work that is determined to be hazardous (such as mining) regardless of force. See key terms in this report for more detail.

³For more detail on factors likely to have impacted the NSUM results please see the methods section.

3: TYPES OF CHILD LABOR AND CHILD TRAFFICKING EXPERIENCED

data source: household survey, qualitative interviews with survivors and parents

Children were classified as experiencing trafficking if they: 1) were engaged in work within a labor sector deemed hazardous, such as mining, 2) were engaged in hazardous activities such as carrying heavy loads within any labor sector, or 3) have experienced force, fraud or coercion within the context of any labor sector. Here we report the prevalence of trafficking within hazardous labor sectors as well as the prevalence of trafficking within other labor sectors, i.e., the labor sectors that are not classified as hazardous. Importantly, we found a high prevalence of children (36.6%, 238 children) who experienced trafficking both within hazardous labor sectors and outside of hazardous labor sectors. Only a small number of children were reported to be trafficked exclusively in hazardous labor sectors (0.6%, 3 children), while the majority of children experienced trafficking within other labor sectors (62.1%, 404 children).

1. Among hazardous labor sectors, portering and fishing were found to be the most prevalent for child trafficking. For trafficked children in the surveyed households, commercial sex was found to be the least prevalent hazardous labor sector, followed by manufacturing, mining/quarrying, and construction. The estimate of the percentage of trafficked children involved in each sector is presented below:

- Portering: 24.27%
- Fishing: 13.67%
- Construction: 4.76%
- Mining/quarrying: 2.30%
- Manufacturing: 1.23%
- Commercial Sex: 0.46%

2. The most prevalent other labor sectors were domestic work (95.9%), agriculture (75.9%), and trading or vending (51.5%). In these cases, children experienced trafficking due to involvement in hazardous working conditions or force, fraud, or coercion. Notice that these percentages add up to more than 100%, which reflects the fact that children experienced trafficking within multiple sectors.

3. Exposure to extreme cold/heat/humidity, carrying heavy loads, operating heavy machinery/working with dangerous tools, and exposure to dust, fumes or gases are the three most reported hazardous working conditions. The percentage of trafficked children engaged in each of these potentially hazardous working conditions is reported below:

- Exposure to extreme cold, heat, or humidity: 46.85%
- Carrying heavy loads: 46.39%
- Operating heavy machinery or dangerous tools: 13.52%
- Exposure to dust, fumes, or gases: 9.83%
- Exposure to loud noise or vibration: 2.00%

4. Qualitative reports from survivors and parents in Kambia most often described trafficking in the context of domestic work or street vending. Survivors reported being exploited in informal foster care placements where they were made to perform domestic duties or sell cakes or water on the street for lengthy hours and without compensation while other children in the household were allowed to attend school.

4: FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION

data source: household survey, qualitative interviews with survivors and parents

Overall, many children reportedly experienced some type of force, fraud, or coercion during trafficking. The household survey captured the prevalence of common types of force, fraud, or coercion, such as being forced to work in order to pay for school, among trafficked children. The qualitative interviews with survivors and parents provided context to understand mechanisms used by traffickers to employ force, fraud, or coercion. Here we report on findings from the household survey first, regarding types of force, fraud, or coercion. Next, we share qualitative reports of mechanisms traffickers used to recruit victims or to maintain compliance of a victim.

1. According to the household survey, (1) working outside the home for little or no wages, (2) being forced to work for someone who is not a member of the household, and (3) being forced or made to work to pay for their school were the three most reported types of force, fraud, or coercion among children in the study.

- Forced to work for little or no wages: 36.56%
- Forced to work for a non-household member: 27.80%
- Forced to work to pay for school: 22.27%

2. Survivors and parents who were interviewed reported multiple mechanisms that traffickers used to recruit victims and maintain control of victims during the trafficking experience. For example, survivors described traffickers recruiting victims by fraudulently promising them support for school enrolment, and then while in the trafficking situation, using physical assault to control their victims and then withholding food (or using other means of coercion).

5: POTENTIAL VULNERABILITIES TO TRAFFICKING

data source: all data

1. According to the household survey, children aged 12–17, those who contributed to the expenses of the household, those who are not enrolled in a formal school, those who are enrolled in a Koranic school, and those who are orphans have higher odds of being trafficked.

2. Results from the household survey indicate that the odds of being trafficked were slightly higher for male children. Male children had 34% higher odds of being trafficked than female children⁴.

⁴Note that the household survey finding that boys had a higher odds of experiencing trafficking compared with girls appears to contrast with findings from the focus group discussions with community members and interviews with key informants where some respondents perceived that girls may be at more risk for trafficking than boys due to the high rate of trafficking within the context of domestic work and the gendered expectations for girls' work. Future research needs to be done to better understand the complex relationship between gender and trafficking vulnerability.

3. Findings from qualitative interviews and focus groups indicated several structural, familial, personal, and social/cultural characteristics that respondents perceived as potentially contributing to children’s vulnerability to trafficking. For example, respondents described how structural factors, such as a lack of secondary schools, lead to a family decision to send their child to a bigger town with a family friend or relative in order to attend school. However, when the child arrived, they were trafficked rather than allowed to attend school as promised. Potential vulnerability factors noted by qualitative respondents included:

Structural: poverty and hunger combined with a lack of infrastructure (such as hospitals, roads, or secondary schools), especially in rural communities

Personal and familial: single-parent headed household (death or parental separation), parental illness, being an orphan, having lots of children in a household, and experiencing household violence

Social and cultural: gendered expectations for and discrimination against girls, lack of participation rights within households and communities (for children and women), and the practice of informal foster care.

6: PERSPECTIVES ABOUT LEAVING A TRAFFICKING SITUATION AND RE-INTEGRATION POST-TRAFFICKING

data source: qualitative interviews with survivors and parents and FGDs

Leaving trafficking: Survivors and parents reported receiving some help from friends, family, and neighbors while leaving a trafficking situation. However, none of the interviewed survivors and parents reported having received help from authorities or NGOs to leave. Some female survivors reported having to enter into transactional relationships to leave a trafficking situation, and some were made to leave after becoming pregnant. Survivors reported difficulty communicating with family during the leaving process and often had to take extra steps to convince their family that they needed help.

Post-Trafficking Experiences: Survivors and parents reported struggling to meet basic resource needs and social-emotional needs post-trafficking. Some respondents reported receiving help from family and friends, especially with school enrollment costs and food. However, no survivors or parents in this study reported receiving support from government agencies or NGOs. Survivors and parents reported lasting emotional impacts from the trafficking experience, affecting the survivors’ reintegration into the family and community.

Community Perceptions of Child Trafficking Victims: Some community members in FGDs described negative perspectives about victims of trafficking who return to the community, suggesting that the trafficking experience has rendered the trafficking victim “good-for nothing” (FGD #4, Adult and Elder Men) as a result of their experiences. This negative view of child trafficking survivors may impact their reintegration.

7: COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CHILD TRAFFICKING AND RESPONDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

data source: All qualitative interviews and focus groups

Community Response: Community members described reporting cases of child trafficking to local authorities, including traditional leaders as well as law enforcement. However, many respondents in FGDs indicated that there was minimal to no response when a child trafficking case was reported in their community. Generally, respondents perceived that anti-trafficking and anti-violence laws are not regularly enforced and believed that poverty was the reason that the anti-trafficking laws are not working for their communities. In addition, respondents stressed the social burden of reporting and shared that there was a stigma against reporting child maltreatment or exploitation to authorities, especially if the situation is occurring within the family or community.

Respondent Recommendations: Survivors, parents and key informants interviewed in Kambia made several recommendations for community leaders, government officials and NGOs that echo APRIES recommendations made based on responses in the eastern province⁵. These include:

- **Strengthening and expanding developmental programs**, especially in rural towns, through building more and improving access to secondary and primary schools, investing in qualified teachers, and expanding social and community centers for youth.
- **Safeguarding children through awareness raising and monitoring informal foster care placements.** Suggestions were made to support parents in deciding to keep their children at home (increased financial support) or to stay connected to children while they are in informal foster care placements and to assist parents who need to remove their child if they are in an exploitative situation.

These respondent recommendations also resulted in new policy suggestions that were not highlighted in our research in the eastern province. These are:

- **Encouraging community members to speak up about child trafficking and child abuse by further expansion of the freedom hotline 134 and education of national and local anti-trafficking laws.** Respondents hope to encourage community members to “raise their voice” when a child is in a potential trafficking situation because children who are experiencing trafficking may be in a position where they are unable to advocate for themselves. Survivors reported that sometimes their biological family was hesitant to believe that the survivors were living in an exploitative trafficking situation. Having support from neighbors and friends bolstered the survivors’ claims and encouraged the family to take action.

⁵Balch, A. et al. *New Research on Child Trafficking & Child Labour in Kailahun, Kenema, and Kono: Recommendations for Policy.* Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach. January 2022.

Importantly, some respondents suggested that although they think it is important to report or intervene in a child trafficking situation, they are unsure about how to do so, indicating a need for increased attention to facilitating reporting and community intervention in cases of child trafficking.

- Respondents generally recommend that increased effort be put into implementing laws that fight against trafficking, such as through supporting the enforcement of bylaws in local communities.
- **Increase financial and resource support for families**, including cash support for struggling families through microcredit and providing seeds to farmers.



STUDY OVERVIEW

This study extends our previous work estimating the prevalence of child trafficking in the Eastern Province to the Kambia district in the North West province of Sierra Leone (Okech et al., 2022). The data collection methods and study design for this study were largely replicated from the baseline study conducted in the Eastern Province in 2019–2020 (Okech et al., 2022). Working with CMDA (Conflict Management Development Association), our research partner in the study of the Eastern Province, we conducted a baseline prevalence study in Kambia District in 2021. We collected data through 1) household surveys of randomly sampled households (N=1,008), 2) in-depth qualitative interviews with stakeholders (N=16; including young people aged 18–25 who had experienced child trafficking, parents or guardians of young people who had experienced child trafficking, and key informants who had professional knowledge about child trafficking in Sierra Leone), and 3) focus group discussions with community members (N=4).

Research Ethics Procedures

Prior to data collection, we submitted the research proposal and supporting documents to Ethics Review Committees in Sierra Leone, the University of Liverpool, and the University of Georgia for review and approval. The proposal documents were presented to the National task force committee against Human Trafficking in the respective countries of implementation, and official approval was requested. Additionally, permission was sought from the provincial governments and chiefdoms in the respective geographical areas to be involved in the study.

STUDY AIMS

This report details the findings from mixed-method research conducted by APRIES in Kambia, Sierra Leone in 2021. The study aimed to describe the problematic nature of child trafficking, identify policy gaps, and estimate baseline prevalence of child trafficking in the region through traditional survey methods (Levy & Lemeshow, 2013) and the Network Scale-up Method (NSUM) (Killworth, Johnsen, et al., 1998; Killworth, McCarty, et al., 1998).

The quantitative study primarily focused on establishing the baseline prevalence for child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. The qualitative study primarily focused on exploring the nature and forms of child trafficking and the response to child trafficking in Kambia, Sierra Leone. We integrated results from both studies in this report, providing context and support for overall findings. Where possible throughout this report, results from a child trafficking baseline prevalence study conducted between 2019–2020 in the Eastern Province will be discussed alongside results from the present study in order to offer a more comprehensive view of the extent and context of child trafficking in Sierra Leone⁶.

⁶ Note that prevalence estimates for each study were collected separately and over different time periods. While the statistical results are not directly comparable, we report key results from both studies to offer context for understanding of the situation for children in Sierra Leone.

KEY TERMS

Trafficking in persons or human trafficking or modern-day slavery is defined as the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for labor, commercial sex or other services related to exploitation through the use of force, fraud, or coercion (United Nations, 2000). Modern-day slavery encompasses, but is not limited to, movement. Therefore, people may be considered victims of human trafficking if they were born into servitude, were exploited in their hometown, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked (United Nations, 2000).

Child Trafficking is defined as any of the “worst forms of child labor,” per Article 3 of ILO Convention Number 182⁷, including:

1. Exposing children to any form of slavery or practice similar to slavery, including recruitment of children in armed conflict
2. Using children in prostitution
3. Using children in illicit activities such as the production and trafficking of drugs
4. Having children perform work which is likely to harm their health, safety, or morals, or work in hazardous conditions, which are harmful to their physical and mental development.

Child Labor is defined as work that is harmful to physical and mental development, depriving children of their childhood, potential, and dignity. Children are considered involved in child labor if they work excessive hours for their age. Specifically, children below 12 years of age working in any economic activities, children aged 12–14 engaged in more than light work, and all children engaged in the worst forms of child labor (ILO Conventions 138, 182 and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, Art 32). In addition, children aged 15–17 are considered involved in child labor if they exceed work hour limits established by the ILO (Global Estimates of Child Labor, 2017)⁸.

Forced Labor is defined as labor obtained through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)⁹; Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930¹⁰; Forced Labor (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203)¹¹), by recruiting, harboring, transporting, provisioning, or obtaining of a person.

⁷https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182

⁸International Labour Office. 2017. *Global estimates of child labour: Results and trends, 2012–2016* Geneva.

⁹ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:Co29

¹⁰Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEX-PUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:Po29

¹¹Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203) https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORML-EXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3174688:NO

¹¹Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203) https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORML-EXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3174688:NO

STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This report is structured as follows: study background and context, methods, findings, and implications. Where appropriate, findings from both quantitative and qualitative methods have been integrated to comprehensively address the study aims. The conclusion discusses implications and recommendations from this study, as well as plans for an endline study to measure impact of anti-trafficking initiatives in Sierra Leone.

STUDY BACKGROUND

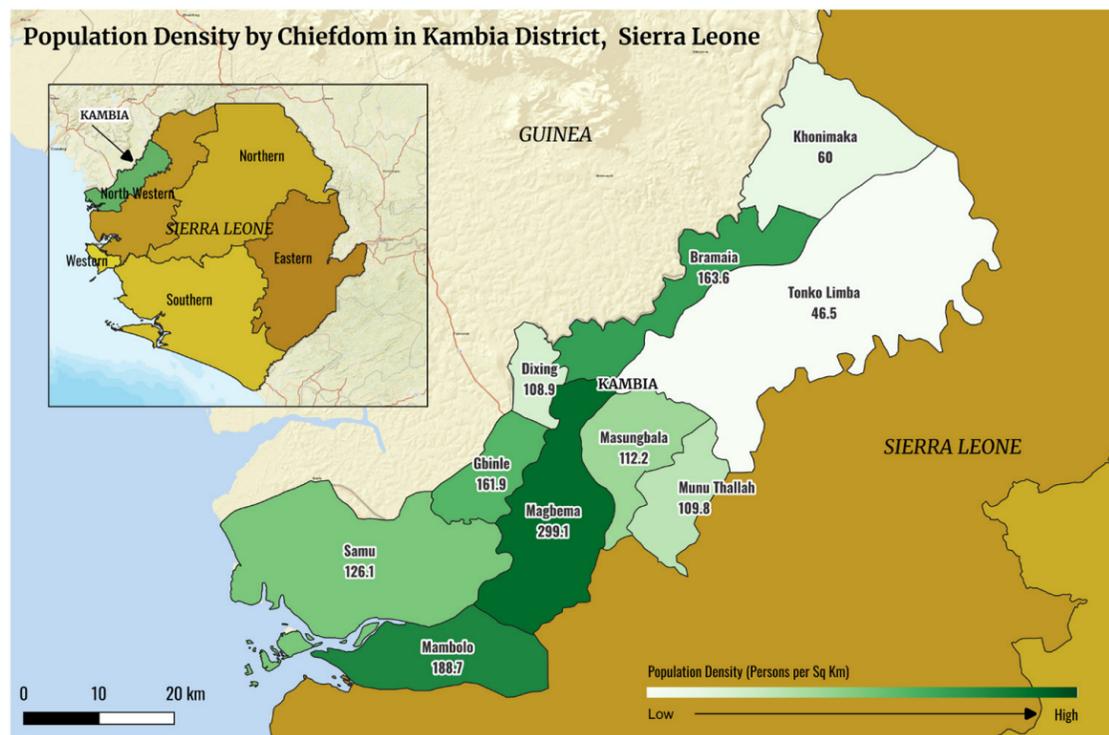
The Sierra Leone child trafficking baseline study conducted in the Eastern Province found a high prevalence rate for CT (33%), indicating that approximately 1 in 3 children (aged 5–17) in the Eastern Province experienced trafficking in 2020 (Okech et al., 2022). Major findings from the household survey in the Eastern Province showed that portering was the most prevalent hazardous labor sector where children experienced trafficking (at a rate of between 12% and 20% varying by district). Additionally almost 20% of children who experienced trafficking in the Eastern Province (in 2019–2020) reported force, fraud or coercion. Male and female children had a relatively equal risk of experiencing trafficking, and children who were between the ages of 12 and 17, who have lost one or both parents, and those who were not enrolled in school experienced trafficking at higher rates (Okech et al., 2022). Qualitative interviews in the Eastern Province indicated that survivors and their families often lacked support for leaving a trafficking experience and for reintegrating after trafficking. Also, survivors in the Eastern Province reported that they had many unaddressed needs post-trafficking, which could increase their vulnerability to experiencing trafficking again or another form of exploitation (Okech et al., 2022). Where possible throughout this report, results from the Eastern Province baseline report will be discussed alongside results from the present study to offer a more comprehensive view of child trafficking in Sierra Leone. For a full account of the Eastern Province baseline study, including methods and findings, please see Okech and colleagues, 2021.

Due to the significant findings regarding child trafficking in the Eastern Province, indicating that child trafficking is an issue of major concern for Sierra Leone, country partners requested that APRIES conduct a similar prevalence study in Kambia, located in the North West province, which is on the opposite side of the country, in order to assess the prevalence of child trafficking in the Kambia district. The present study replicates the overall study design and methodology used in the previous baseline study (Okech et al., 2022), by using a mixed-methods approach to collect and analyze data related to child trafficking and child labor prevalence as well as understanding the context for child trafficking in Kambia. This background section will provide more information about the context of the Kambia district. For more background about the context of child trafficking in Sierra Leone overall, as well as the national anti-trafficking policy landscape, please see the Eastern Province baseline study (Okech et al., 2022).

KAMBIA IN CONTEXT

Kambia district is in the North West province, which includes two neighboring districts, Port Loko and Karene (a district formed in 2017). Sharing a border with Guinea on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the southwest, Kambia has a population of approximately 345,474 with around 46% (158,918) of the total population under 15

years old (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016b). The district is known for fishing, agriculture (cultivation of rice, cassava and sweet potato) and small-scale trade (Parliamentary Budget Office, 2019). Compared with other districts in the region, Kambia has few financial institutions with only two banks and one post office (for comparison, Port Loko has 10 banks and Karene has nine banks). Similar to its neighbors, Kambia also has limited access to law enforcement and judicial services, with only five police stations and one magistrate. There are no judges in any of the three districts in the North West Province (Parliamentary Budget Office, 2019).



Ethnicities and Religion. Among the 10 chiefdoms within the district, the Magbema chiefdom is the most populated, with around 27% of the total district population, followed by the Samu chiefdom (19%) and Tonko Limba chiefdom (17%; Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016b). The most recent census (2015) indicates that 55% of the population in Kambia identified as Temne which is the largest ethnic group in the country, 21% Susu, and 18% Limba (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016a). In Kambia, less than 1% of the population identified as Mende, which is the second-largest ethnic group in Sierra Leone. Kambia and Port Loko have the largest populations practicing Islam (94% and 93% respectively), 5% of the population practices Christianity, and 0.3% report having no religion (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016a).

Age Dependency and Poverty. Compared with all other districts in Sierra Leone, Kambia has the highest age dependency ratio at 95.3, which means that for every 100 people of working age (15–65 years old) there are 95 dependents (aged under 15 or over 65; Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016a). The high age dependency ratio reflects an extreme amount of pressure on working age individuals in the district. Kambia is one of five districts in Sierra Leone with the highest multidimensional poverty rate at 79%¹² (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016b). Households surveyed in Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 6 reported that the availability of financial assistance in Kambia was minimal, with only around 21% of surveyed households indicating they received any kind of social transfer (in 2017), which is lower than neighboring districts (such as Port Loko at 33%; Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018).

Children’s Living Arrangements and Parental Monitoring. In 2017, although 93% of children in Kambia lived in households headed by a family member (typically a grandparent or other relative), approximately 28% of children between 0–18 years old lived with someone who was not their biological parent (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018), which is higher than the national average. Moreover, 14% of children (0–17 years old) were reported to be a single or double orphan, which is slightly above the national average of 13% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). Around 64% of households reported that their children aged 2–4 had no household adult engaging in any activity to promote learning and school readiness within the past 3 days. This is higher than neighboring districts (Porto Loko 52%). Additionally, 35% of households reported that a child under the age of 5 was left alone without supervision for more than an hour in the past week, which was higher than 12 other districts in Sierra Leone (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018).

Births and Family Planning. Among all 14 districts in Sierra Leone, Kambia had the second highest rate of live births among women under the age of 15 at 6% and the second highest rate of men under the age of 18 who fathered a live birth at a rate of 8% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). Kambia and neighboring district Port Loko had the lowest rate of childbirth in a health facility at 54%. Perhaps due to the low rate of hospital births, Kambia had the second lowest birth registration rate in the country, with only 65% of children under the age of 5 reported to be registered with civil authorities (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). Around 12% of married women (15–49 years old) and 56% of unmarried women (15–49 years old) reported using a birth control method, which is consistent with the national average for contraception use (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). The reported unmet need for contraception among married women (aged 15–49 years old) was 30%, which was high compared to other districts, and 25% among unmarried women (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018).

Early Marriage and FGM. Among surveyed 20–24-year-old women in Kambia, 19% reported that they were married before the age of 15, which is the second highest rate of early marriage in the country (Kono was the highest at 21% and Western Area Urban was the lowest at 6%; Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). Furthermore, 95% of women aged 15–49 reported having FGM, which is higher than the national average at 86%. In addition, 89% of women in Kambia believed the practice of FGM should be continued (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). This was the highest endorsement rate of FGM in the country, where the average was 68% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018).

Household Violence. Kambia had the second lowest rate (75%) for use of violent discipline methods on children aged 1–14 years within the month prior to the 2017 survey. The highest rate was in Kailahun at 97%, and the lowest was in Tonkolili at 69% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). Only 19% of mothers surveyed in Kambia believed that physical discipline was necessary to raise a child, which was the lowest rate in the country (the highest rate was in Kailahun at 77%). Neighboring districts had a rate of 30% or more of mothers endorsing this notion (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). In contrast, there was strong support in Kambia for the belief that physical assault by a husband towards his wife can sometimes be justified. 80% of women (15–49 years old) surveyed in Kambia reported a belief that a man is justified in physically assaulting (“beating”) his wife under certain circumstances, such as if a wife goes out without telling her husband. This

¹²Multidimensional poverty was assessed during the MICS 2017 survey using 12 indicators including measures of health, education, and standard of living.

was the highest rate of endorsement among all districts in the country (the next highest was Kailahun at 70% and the lowest was Kenema where 40% endorsed the belief; Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018). Among men aged 15–49, 50% endorsed the belief that a man can be justified in physically assaulting his wife, the third highest endorsement rate among men in other districts within Sierra Leone (highest was Bonthe at 65% followed by Kono at 61%, lowest was Tonkolili at 16%) (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018).

School Enrollment and Child Labor. Kambia had one of the lowest net enrollment rates¹³ for primary school in the country at 59% (the lowest was Koinadugu at 46% and the highest was western area urban at 77%) according to data from the 2015 census. Additionally, Kambia had the second lowest rate for secondary school enrollment (among children 12–14 years old) at 14% and lowest was Moyamba at 12% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016c). Senior secondary school enrollment for 15–17-year-old youth was very low across the country, generally less than 15%, with Kambia again reporting the third lowest rate at 8% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016c). Among households surveyed for the MICS 2017, 40% reported a child of 5–11 years old engaged in economic activity for at least one hour, which was the third highest among all districts (highest was Koinadugu at 60% and lowest was Western Area Urban at 8%). Additionally, 54% of households in Kambia reported that their children aged 5–17 years old were engaged in child labor (defined as children who are engaged in economic activity and who are either “below the age threshold” or “working under hazardous conditions”). This was the third highest rate reported across districts (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018).

METHODS

This mixed-methods study was an extension of a study on the same topic in the Eastern Province. Therefore, many of the procedures used in this study are replications of those used for the Eastern Province baseline study (Okech et al., 2022). The study team employed a household survey tool to estimate prevalence and identify characteristics of children who have experienced trafficking or child labor, which was slightly modified from the Eastern Province study. The same qualitative interview and focus group discussion guide tools were utilized for both studies. The following section is an overview of methods used for this study in Kambia.

QUALITATIVE METHODS OVERVIEW

Qualitative in-depth interviews and focus groups were conducted among four key stakeholder groups in Kambia, including adult survivors of child trafficking, parents or guardians of child trafficking survivors, key informants (community leaders, NGO or government officials), and community members. The purpose of the qualitative study was to build understanding of the context for child trafficking in Kambia, including community perspectives about child trafficking itself. The qualitative study also aimed to understand what trafficking in Kambia might look and feel like from the perspectives of survivors, parents, and community members. By bringing together different stakeholder perspectives we can offer new insights about not only how child trafficking happens but also how child trafficking response could be strengthened.

¹³The net enrolment rate was calculated by dividing the total population of children in the age group, 6–11 years old, by the number of 6–11-year-old children enrolled in primary school at the time of the census.

Sample Size and Sampling Strategy

Data were collected through in-depth interviews (16) and focus group discussions (FGDs; 4) within the Kambia region. FGDs were conducted with four distinct groups: Young Adult Women (18–30), Adult and Elder Women (age 35 and up), Young Adult Men (18–30), Adult and Elder Men (age 35 and up). Snowball sampling was used for interviews with survivors, parents and key informants. Following an interview, we asked respondents to identify others who may be interested in participating in the study. See Appendix A for more details about the sampling activities.

Data Collection Procedures

Data were collected through three activities: 1) key informant interviews (KIIs) with representatives of Kambia based non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and local leaders, 2) in-depth interviews (IDIs) with identified young adult survivors of child trafficking (who have gone through rehabilitation in the shelters or those identified by the community leaders) and referred parents/guardians of victims/survivors in geographic hotspots for child trafficking; and 3) focus group discussions (FGDs) with community members in Kambia.

Qualitative data collection guides were developed for each respondent group which explored: 1) conceptualizations of child trafficking, 2) perceptions about the causes of trafficking, 3) consequences of trafficking, 4) current initiatives to address trafficking, and 5) proposed solutions to prevent trafficking and support survivors. An in-depth description of the qualitative data collection tools and procedures as well as full versions of data collection tools are available in Appendix A–C.

Qualitative Data Management and Analysis

Transcription. Interviews and focus groups were recorded using portable audio-recorders. Recordings were downloaded to a computer and backed up on another password-protected computer daily. After being assigned a unique identification code, audio files were transcribed in two rounds. In round 1, audio files were transcribed by a local transcriber fluent in English and the local language. Interviews were conducted in either English, Krio or Temne (the primary languages in the region). The transcribers, fluent in English and the local languages, transcribed all the audio recordings into English using verbatim translation—ensuring that the inherent meaning or context of the interview was not lost. All interviews and focus groups were deidentified after transcription, with any potentially identifiable information removed.

Analysis. Transcripts of interviews and focus groups were analyzed using a codebook method in NVivo (King & Brooks, 2021; Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2020). The APRIES staff and students coded each transcript using a 4-step process: 1) development of the preliminary coding scheme, (2) finalization of the coding scheme, (3) individual coding, and (4) team coding-to-agreement. All transcripts of each type of qualitative data were reviewed and coded by the qualitative data team using the group coding process. Following this, coded data were analyzed using a matrix approach. A framework matrix was developed in NVivo with rows for each respondent group and columns for code families (groups of codes organized by topic) to generate a matrix with cells linked to

corresponding data. The matrix was then used as a tool to compare perspectives and experiences between respondent groups.

Ethical Considerations

This study was approved as part of the ethical review process for the larger study, which included the Eastern Province baseline. The approval process for the overall study included review by committees in Sierra Leone, the University of Liverpool, and the University of Georgia, presentation of the study proposal to the National Taskforce Committee Against Human Trafficking in Sierra Leone, and permission from local leaders and chiefdoms. Affirming respondents' confidentiality and rights was a priority for the study team. Respondents were provided with information about the study purpose and their verbal informed consent was sought prior to any interview or focus group discussion. Respondents were asked to refrain from using names and other identifiable information when participating in an interview or focus group.

Covid-19 Research Protocols

Additional ethical and research protocols specific for Covid-19 were employed. For example, to minimize transmission and protect study participants as well as data collectors, interviews, group meetings, and household surveys were conducted outdoors with social distancing measures in place.

PREVALENCE ESTIMATION METHODS

We conducted a household survey to estimate the prevalence of child trafficking in Kambia via both traditional survey method and the Network Scale-Up Method (NSUM) (e.g., Yang and Yang, 2017). The traditional survey method served as a benchmark, while the NSUM was an alternative method whose effectiveness in assessing prevalence of human trafficking was yet unknown. The traditional survey method was to ask respondents about labor activities of the children in their households to estimate the prevalence rates of CT and CL among children (aged 5-17) in the sampled households. Households were chosen based on an equal probability of selection, and therefore, the sample is representative of the district (see section on sampling design in the study of the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone by Okech et al., 2022).

The NSUM was developed to help estimate the prevalence of hidden populations, who are groups of people who share characteristics that hide them from view. The NSUM involves estimating the number of people in respondents' networks who have the characteristic of interest (e.g., trafficking victims) and then extrapolating the number to the population level. Surveys also included questions to assess trafficking experiences and vulnerabilities among children who reside in the household. We added four questions to the previously developed household survey to assess CT visibility or transmission bias, an important component of improving the accuracy of the NSUM methodology. Specifically, if the respondent answered yes to any of the questions that would categorize a child as being a victim of CT, the respondent would be asked a follow-up question: "out of every 10 people you know, how many do you think know that the child is involved in this activity?" The use of these two methods, i.e., traditional survey method and NSUM, enables the comparison of the traditional with the innovative methods to estimate the prevalence of child trafficking.

Study Site and Study Population

Data were gathered in Kambia, Sierra Leone. This district was selected in consultation with key informants. The study population is children aged 5-17 who reside in the sampled households in the district. We used the same two-stage stratified sampling as in the Eastern Province to select households for the survey (Levy & Lemeshow, 2008; Okech et al., 2022).

APRIES faculty and representatives from the Resilient Africa Network (RAN) provided the CMDA-SL researchers with training during August-September of 2020. The CMDA researchers then provided local enumerators with a four-day training on the data collection process from September 16th to 19th, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the training by APRIES and RAN was conducted virtually via Zoom. For more details on the role CMDA-SL played, see Appendix C: "Preparation and Planning by CMDA-SL."

Study Design

We used a two-stage stratified sampling technique. The primary sampling unit (PSU) is the enumeration area (EA), which is the basic administrative unit used in the collection of census data, and the secondary sampling unit (SSU) is the household. We define a household as "a person or a group of persons, related or unrelated, who live together and who share a common source of food" (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016).

The survey respondent was the oldest woman of the household who meets the following criteria: 1) was above the age of 18; 2) had resided in the household for at least the past 12 months; 3) was able to understand the survey questions; and 4) was able to communicate responses to the survey questions. The oldest female member of the household was selected as the respondent because we expect that she would have more knowledge of the lives of the children in the household and the community. If there was no woman in the household who met the criteria, the oldest male in the household who met the inclusion criteria was selected.

Sampling Size and Procedures

The two-stage stratified sampling strategy yielded 15 enumeration areas (EAs) selected from urban areas and 35 EAs selected from rural areas based on simple random sampling (SRS) regardless of the size of EAs (i.e., number of households residing in the EA). Next, the number of households was determined and allocated to the EAs proportionate to their sizes (PPS), which resulted in 274 households sampled from urban areas (29.5% urban) and 734 households sampled from rural areas, totaling 1,008 sampled households out of 53,826 households in Kambia (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016). A total of 1,942 children resided in the sampled households. Table 1 summarizes the sample allocation in Kambia.

Data Collection and Tools

Enumerators administered survey questionnaires to estimate the prevalence of child trafficking, and determine the correlates for vulnerability to trafficking (see Appendix A for the complete survey). The survey was designed to gauge the labor activities of children residing in the sampled households and those in the respondents' networks. In

addition to questions designed by the research team, we adapted questions from well-established instruments used to estimate human trafficking (e.g., the Delphi Survey, the UNICEF report on reversing child trafficking trends in Asia, and the instrument used to estimate Modern Slavery (Larsen & Diego-Rosell, 2017; UNICEF EAPRO, 2009), items from the Demographic and Health Survey (Statistics Sierra Leone and ICF International, 2014), and questions designed by the research team. The final questionnaire was translated into local languages (Krio and Temne).

The survey instrument contained the following sections:

A. Household Identification

Location of household, date of interview, identification of data collector

B1. Household Roster

List of household members and responses to demographic questions about each member

B2. Assessment of Child Labor (CL) in the Household

Questions on labor activities in and outside the home for each person aged 5-17 named in the household roster. Children who are involved in excessive levels of work activity for their age are considered child labor victims, as are all children who experience trafficking, per the assessments in Survey sections B2 and F. See Okech et al., (2022)'s Appendix I for statistical and operational definitions of child labor.

B3. Assessment of Trafficking Victimization and Vulnerability in the Household

Checklist of activities that either alone or in combination constitute child trafficking (CT). Checklist is performed for each person aged 5-17 named in the household roster. Refer to Appendix H for the statistical and operational definition of household child trafficking in Okech et al., (2022).

C. Household Description

Questions drawn from the Demographic and Health Survey (Statistics Sierra Leone and ICF International, 2014) that assess physical characteristics of the dwelling reflecting household wealth.

D. Perceptions of Family Welfare

Assesses the respondent's perceptions of the availability of economic resources in the household.

E. NSUM and Transmission Bias

Questions determine demographic characteristics of respondent's network (NSUM network reference questions) and estimate the likelihood that persons in the network have communicated personal information to the respondent (transmission bias).

F. Listing of Potential Child Victims of Trafficking

Listing of all children under the age of 18 in the community that have either worked outside the home and/or lived away from parents in the past 12 months. Assessment of trafficking victimization and vulnerability to trafficking for each child named in the roster.

G. Impact of Covid-19

Respondents rated (on a scale of 1 to 5) the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on the welfare of the family, community, exploitation of children, and access to essential social services.

Child Trafficking and Child Labor

This study estimates the prevalence rate of child trafficking (CT) and child labor (CL). Children who reside in the sampled household (referred to as "household children") and children who are in the respondents' social network (referred to as "network children") are classified as victims of child trafficking and/or child labor based on the criteria outlined in the following paragraphs. For more detailed information on the criteria, please see Appendix H and I, Statistical and Operational Definition of Child Trafficking and Child Labor in Okech et al., 2021.

Child Trafficking

This study conceptualizes child trafficking based on the Palermo Protocol and Article 3 of ILO Convention Number 182 (International Labor Organization, 1999) (see Appendices H and I of Okech et al., (2021) for more detail). Children are considered to be victims of child trafficking if their labor conditions are characterized by any of the following— (1) hazardous labor sectors, (2) hazardous labor activities, and (3) force, fraud, and coercion.

Child Labor

Children who are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, as described above, are also considered involved in child labor. In addition, per ILO Convention 138 (International Labor Organization, 1973), children are classified as being involved in child labor if they work longer hours than considered appropriate for their age. Children aged between 5 and 11 who spend at least one hour per week on economic activity, those aged 12-14 who spend more than 14 hours per week, and those aged between 15 and 17, who work more than 43 hours per week are considered involved in child labor.

Network Scale-up Methodology Overview

The NSUM was originally developed to estimate the prevalence of hidden populations. Hidden populations are people with characteristics that are stigmatized or illegal, such as persons with HIV, intravenous drug users, sex workers, and persons who have been trafficked (IST research et al., 2020; Kadushin et al., 2006; Okech et al., 2022; Salganik et al., 2011). The ability of direct measurement techniques to estimate the prevalence of such populations is limited due to difficulty in identifying those in the hidden population and, if identified, their hesitancy to report. Instead of measuring the prevalence by directly asking about respondents and children living in their own households, the NSUM takes advantage of the information in respondents' social networks (i.e., people respondents know). The premise of NSUM is that an individual's social network is generally representative of the population in the region. To give a simplistic example, when respondents' average social network size is 10, and they report on average knowing two people who have been trafficked, we can estimate that 2/10 of the population have been trafficked.

Specifically, the NSUM estimate is based on the assumption that the number of people known by an individual i ($i=1, \dots, n$) in group k ($k=1, \dots, K$) follows a binomial distribution. Killworth et al. (1998) derived the maximum likelihood estimator of d_i as

$$\hat{d}_i = N \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{K-1} y_{ik}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K-1} N_k} \quad (i = 1, \dots, n) \quad (1)$$

where y_{ik} is the number of people known by individual $i=1, \dots, n$ in group $k=1, \dots, K$, with the first $K-1$ groups being the reference subpopulations of known size and the K^{th} group, the target population of unknown size. Although there can be more than one unknown groups, without loss of generality, we assume only one to simplify the demonstration here. Let d_i be the number of people respondent i knows, which is also called degree or social network size of the respondent; let N_k ($k=1, \dots, K$) be the size of group k , and N be the total population of the study region.

Conditional on estimates \hat{d}_i of d_i , the maximum likelihood estimator of N_K , the size of the unknown population is then

$$\hat{N}_K = N \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N y_{iK}}{\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{d}_i} \quad (2)$$

Additional methodological details regarding the NSUM model and its biases, as well as the specific strategies used in this study to create model estimates can be found in our report of prevalence of child trafficking in the Eastern Province (Okech et al., 2022).

Data Collection Procedures

Data collection was conducted between 16th September and 4th October 2021. Extensive training was conducted prior to the collection to ensure appropriate data collection techniques and research ethics (for more details on training, see Appendix D “Training of Data Collectors.”)

At the start of field data collection, supervisors led their team members to meet with the Paramount Chief and other local authorities in assigned chiefdoms to apprise them of the exercise. The data collection team provided the authorities with a copy of a letter from the District Council Chief Administrator requesting that they cooperate with the assigned teams, including passing the information to their Section Chiefs and other residents in the selected EAs and communities.

After getting support from the Paramount Chief, the enumerators proceeded to the assigned EAs and target communities. Once in the community, the enumerator first met with the Chief and other leaders to convey the same message and explain the purpose of their visit. After obtaining permission, the enumerators requested a knowledgeable guide from residents in the community, who could help with the listing of names of all household heads. The completed household listing then served as a sampling frame. For more details, see “Sampling Size and Procedures” section.

Interviews were conducted using the Open Data Kit (ODK) software system (Hartung et al., 2010), and data was entered on tablets or smartphones. The enumerators read the survey questions to the respondent in their preferred language and recorded the survey responses in the ODK system. Once the survey was completed, it was reviewed by the supervisor and then completed forms were uploaded to a secure data storage cloud daily.

Quality Control and Assurance

At the end of each interview, the enumerator thoroughly checked the questionnaire for completeness. Supervisors cross-checked all questionnaires at the end of each day’s work to ensure that no important data were missing. CMDA staff oversaw the quality control aspects of the study. For more details on the quality control, see Appendix E, “Supportive Field Supervision and Data Quality Assurance Strategies”.

Ethical Considerations

Data collection began after obtaining ethics approval. Ethical considerations included maintaining participants’ confidentiality and ensuring that their rights were protected. Prior to administering the questionnaire, enumerators explained to each participant the purpose of the survey and, if they agreed to participate, obtained their informed consent. The participant reserved the right to refuse to answer any questions. For confidentiality purposes, identifier information on all sampled households was collected and kept secure.

STUDY FINDINGS

This section presents the study’s findings resulting from analysis of the quantitative household survey and the qualitative interviews and focus group discussions in Kambia. The findings are presented in the following sections:

1. Prevalence Estimates of Child Trafficking and Child Labor
2. Community Perspectives about Child Trafficking and Child Labor
3. Types of Child Labor and Child Trafficking Experienced
4. Exploitation that Involves Force, Fraud, or Coercion
5. Vulnerabilities to Child Labor and Child Trafficking
6. Perspectives on Leaving a Trafficking Situation and Post-trafficking Re-integration
7. Community Response to Child Trafficking and Respondent Recommendations

1: PREVALENCE ESTIMATES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOR

data source: household survey

Sample Descriptives

Tables 1–3 report basic characteristics of the sample. A total of 1,008 households, were sampled, 274 from urban areas and 737 from rural areas. 1,942 children resided in the sampled households.

Child Trafficking

Traditional survey methods estimate that the number of child trafficking victims in Kambia is 39,155, which is 33.52% of the children in the district (table 4). Prevalence estimates based on NSUM are much lower than those generated through traditional survey methods. Based on NSUM, the number of child trafficking victims is estimated to be 4,850, which is approximately 4% of the children in the district.

Child Labor

The estimated number of child labor victims from traditional survey methods is 46,794, or around 40% of the children in Kambia (table 4). The prevalence estimate generated through NSUM is much lower—approximately 5%, or 5,641 children in the region estimated to be involved in child labor.

Summary

Consistent with our findings from the Eastern Province baseline study (Okech et al., 2022), the substantive gap in prevalence estimates generated through the two different methods suggests that NSUM may not be an optimal prevalence methodology in the context of Kambia, Sierra Leone. NSUM underestimates the prevalence rate for both child trafficking and child labor relative to traditional survey methods. For child trafficking, NSUM generated estimates that are around 30 percentage points below that of traditional survey methods. For child labor, NSUM estimated 35 percentage points lower than traditional survey methods. Further investigation is needed to determine factors that might have impacted differences between the traditional survey and NSUM estimates.

Kambia’s CT and CL prevalence rates are most closely comparable to findings from Kailahun in the Eastern Province¹⁴, where rates were estimated to be 33% for CT and 35% for CL and in between rates for Kenema (27% CT, 29% CL) and Kono (46% CT, 52% CL: Okech et al., 2022).

2: COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOR

data source: focus group discussions

This section explores community perceptions about child trafficking and child labor drawing from data collected during focus group discussions with community members within the Kambia district. During FGDs, respondents were asked to discuss vignettes depicting child trafficking and child labor. They were also asked to consider whether or not these kinds of situations occur in their communities. FGD respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they believe child trafficking is happening in their communities and provided specific examples of trafficking cases that were known to them.

“It is happening here...I asked [neighbor] about her plans for this new child who has been doing almost all the work in the house. This woman told me that the child is in a better place. Because where she took her is even worse than where she is now. She told me she doesn’t have plans to send her to school. She told me that the child is in her care to be helping her with her domestic work until a suitor comes for her hand in marriage. After that discussion, I met a friend who is a police officer and explained to her exactly the discussions I had with my neighbor. And as God could have it, the police intervened, invited that my neighbor for questioning and later she was asked by the police Family Support Unit division to return the child. After some days the child was reunited with her family.”

– FGD #1, Adult and Elder Women

¹⁴Note that prevalence estimates for each study were collected separately and over different time periods. While the statistical results are not directly comparable we report key results from both studies to offer context for understanding of the situation for children in Sierra Leone.

When discussing child trafficking cases happening in their communities, FGD respondents defined trafficking as:

- forced work
- work for long hours or when the workload is beyond a child’s capacity based on their age
- when a child does not attend school, because they are forced to work
- when a child is moved from one place to another
- when a child receives no benefit from working
- when there is a financial transaction involving a trafficker, such as when a child’s family receives money or other valuable goods from a trafficker in exchange for their child

“According to the [vignette], both child trafficking and forced labour occurred. The child was moved from her parent and taken along, that is child trafficking. Secondly the right of the child was not observed or taken into account. She was not enrolled in school. That is a violation of her right. The labour aspect, she was asked to clean the home, launder and take care of those older than her.”

— FGD #3, Young Adult Men

Community members who participated in the FGDs stressed that they believe trafficking is “evil”, “wicked” and “wrong” and harmful to children and the community. Some respondents suggested that they viewed child trafficking as a violation of children’s rights, including their right to an education. Respondents most often described trafficking experiences happening within the context of informal foster care placements, suggesting that children in informal foster care may be particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

“Persons sometimes commit child trafficking indirectly and they may not be aware of it. For instance, I may have a child here as ‘menpikin’ [informally fostered] among my own biological children. I give all the priority treatments to my own biological kids while I do not fulfill the livelihood requirements of the ‘menpikin’. So, in effect, that ‘menpikin’ child is being trafficked by me unconsciously. That is a child trafficking case; as long as that child is not treated with equal opportunity in the home. In that situation always we have child labour, exploitation, hazardous work can be involved too and all constitute child trafficking.”

—Respondent #16, KII, NGO, District Coordinator

Gender Differences. Many respondents perceived that there were differences in trafficking experiences between male and female children. Generally, FGD respondents perceived that boys were often sought for farm work, cutting timber, selling in nightclubs and smuggling drugs, whereas girls were noted by respondents as being most often sought

for domestic work. Some respondents suggested a view that girls were more impacted by child trafficking compared with boys, because they are less valued within their families. Respondents also suggested that experiences of sexual violence within foster households, as part of informal foster care placements, were common, especially for children who are trafficked for domestic work within these settings.

“Although the others are unanimous that boys and girls are equally affected, but for me girls are affected in the higher proportion. It is the girls that are been taken out from here more than the boys. Most relations are normally picking on the girls, ‘Give me this girl to take back with me into my care.’ they would say and not mentioning the boy child even when he is present. The girl only returns after she has gone out of hands. [Said with some anger]. Girls are requested for more because the caretaker in her marriage home needs her to do the domestic work, laundry, cooking and also send her to do street trading.”

—FGD #4, Adult and Elder Men

Overall, community members condemned child trafficking and also described negative impacts on children, families and the community as a whole. These findings are consistent with findings in the Eastern Province, where respondents similarly condemned child trafficking and child labor. Likewise, respondents in Kambia emphasized the negative impacts on the child’s future, due to an educational gap, and suggested that this financially impacted the community.

“Child trafficking has made our community to become even poorer than before, because the future of our children has been ruined.”

—FGD #3, Young Adult Men

3: TYPES OF CHILD LABOR AND CHILD TRAFFICKING EXPERIENCED

data source: household survey, qualitative interviews with survivors and parents

Children were reported to experience trafficking within hazardous labor sectors, classified as the worst forms of child labor, and also within other labor sectors due to circumstances of force, fraud or coercion experienced during their work. Findings from the household survey indicate that around 47% of children who were classified as experiencing trafficking in the sample were engaged in a hazardous labor sector (such as portering) and 53% of children who were classified as experiencing trafficking were engaged in a sector not defined as hazardous (such as domestic work or agriculture).

Types of Trafficking Activities Indicated by the Household Survey

Hazardous Labor Sectors

Recall that children were classified as victims of child trafficking when they were involved in any of the following labor sectors: 1) portering, 2) construction, 3) fishing, 4) mining/quarrying, 5) commercial sex, and 6) manufacturing, as presented in Table 5 and Figure 1 (see Appendix H of Okech et al., (2022) for the definition of child trafficking in the household and in the network). Among the 651 identified victims of child trafficking residing in sampled households, 158 children (24.27%) engaged in portering (i.e., carrying heavy objects), followed by fishing (89 children, 13.67%), construction (31

children, 4.76%), mining/quarrying (15 children, 2.30%), manufacturing (8 children, 1.23%), and commercial sex (3 children, 0.46%).

These findings were comparable to those of the Eastern Province, where the most prevalent hazardous labor sectors were portering (Kailahun, 12%; Kenema, 20%; Kono, 20%), followed by fishing (Kailahun, 4%; Kenema, 9%; Kono, 12%), mining (Kailahun, 4%; Kenema, 7%; Kono, 7%), and construction (Kailahun, 4%; Kenema, 7%; Kono, 7%). The least prevalent sectors were manufacturing (Kailahun, 2%; Kenema, 1%; Kono, 1%), and commercial sex (Kailahun, 1%; Kenema, 2%; Kono, 1%).

Hazardous Labor Activities

Per Article 3 of ILO Convention Number 182 (International Labor Organization, 1999) (see Appendix H of Okech et al., (2022) for more detail), children are classified as victims of trafficking when they perform hazardous labor activities. Among children who reside in the sampled households, the dangerous labor experiences include exposure to extreme cold, heat, or humidity (305 household children, 46.85%), carrying heavy loads (302 household children, 46.39%), operating heavy machinery or working with dangerous tools (88 household children, 13.52%), exposure to dust, fumes, or gases (64 household children, 9.83%), and exposure to loud noise or vibration (13 household children, 2.00%: table 6).

These were somewhat similar to the findings in the Eastern Province where children were mostly trafficked into carrying heavy loads (Kailahun 46.8%, Kenema 63.9%; Kono 18.9%) and exposed to extreme cold, heat, or humidity (Kailahun 30.9%; Kenema 11.4%; Kono 0%). Children in Kambia and Kailahun showed similar distributions in terms of involvement in hazardous activities, which was somewhat different from the reports of children in Kenema and Kono.

Other Child Labor Sectors (not classified as hazardous)

Trafficked children were also involved in labor sectors that were not classified as hazardous. These sectors include domestic work, agriculture, trading or vending, working in workshops (e.g., crafts and mechanics), begging, and motorcycle taxi driving. This reflects the wide variety of labor activities in which trafficked children in Kambia were involved. Among 651 household children who were classified as trafficked, about one third (238; 36.6%) were involved in both hazardous and other labor sectors (Table 7 below and Table F1 and Figure F1 in Appendix F). Nearly two thirds, 404 (62.1%) children, were reported to be involved in “other” labor sectors only (due to hazardous labor activities and force, fraud, or coercion experiences). Only 3 (0.614%) children were reported to be solely involved in hazardous labor sectors (Figure F1 in Appendix F). Among “other” labor sectors that were not classified as hazardous, the most prevalent labor sectors were domestic work (95.9%), agriculture (75.9%), trading or vending (51.5%).

TABLE 7

Labor Sectors where Children Experienced Trafficking (Among Children Who Were Trafficked N=651)			
Hazardous	Number (Percent)	“Other”	Number (Percent)
Portering	158 (24.3%)	Domestic work	624 (95.9%)
Fishing	89 (13.7%)	Agricultural work	494 (75.9%)
Construction	31 (4.76%)	Trading/vending activities	335 (51.5%)
Mining/Quarrying	15 (2.3%)	Motorcycle taxi driving	39 (5.99%)
Manufacturing	8 (1.23%)	Working in workshops, e.g., crafts, mechanics	22 (3.38%)
Sex work (selling or giving any type of sexual service)	3 (0.46%)	Begging	8 (1.23%)
Total Hazardous	241 (37.01%)	Total Other	642 (98.6%)

These findings imply that “other” labor sectors, although not classified as hazardous, can still involve children in trafficking situations because of the means (i.e., force, fraud, or coercion) traffickers used or the hazardous activities in which the children are involved.

We further examined the number of labor sectors, either hazardous or not, in which the trafficked children were involved (see Figure F2 in Appendix F). The vast majority of trafficked children had been involved in multiple labor sectors in the last 12 months, most commonly in 3–4 labor sectors (Figure F2 in Appendix F).

In summary, an important observation was that most trafficked children in Kambia were working in labor sectors that were not classified as hazardous, such as domestic work, agriculture, trading or vending. Many of the children working in these three labor sectors were victims of trafficking (37.3% of children working in domestic work were trafficked; this figure was 49.4% in agriculture and 57.6% in trading or vending; refer to Table F1 in Appendix F).

Qualitative Descriptions of Trafficking Sectors

Respondents in focus groups and interviews primarily described children’s experiences with trafficking in domestic settings for domestic work, vending, and agriculture. Typically, these experiences were described as happening within the context of informal foster care placement.

“One day, my son called me with a neighbour’s phone, telling me how badly his uncle was treating him. He said since he came to his house, he has not been going to school. The neighbour also confirmed it; they always go to the farm to work, and he was the one doing all the house chores, while his uncle’s children were attending school regularly. That urged me to go for my son and he is now staying with us.”

—Respondent # 6, father of survivor, Farmer

Many qualitative respondents described trafficking experiences that involved multiple forms of trafficking, such as domestic work and vending.

“I was eating once per day. That is at 2pm and it is after I am off from selling. During the morning hours, I sweep the house, clean the place. We were having one goat that was sleeping in one of the rooms. I ensured that I clean up the room where the goats used to sleep, take it out to the field for grazing, then wash the plates and spoons and collect the product to go and sell.”

—Respondent #8, male survivor, 20 years old, transporter and enrolled in school

“I was always the first to be woken up by 6 am to go and fetch water; I was the one doing all the household chores (cleaning, washing dishes, fetching firewood, laundering, etc.) while her children were still in bed. The road leading to the place we normally go and fetch water was very dangerous, I had to wait till day break when the place was a bit bright before I could continue my journey...I started preparing butterscotch to sell for her... After the butter scotch business, we started fish balls for sale which was all for her benefit. The profits earned from the fish ball business was used to join “Osusu” (an interest-paying contribution) to enable her to pay her children’s fees.”

—Respondent #14, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

Consistent with findings from the Eastern Province baseline study, qualitative reports from survivors and parents in Kambia most often described trafficking in the context of domestic work or street vending. Survivors reported being exploited in informal foster care placements where they were made to perform domestic duties or sell cakes or water on the street for lengthy hours and without compensation while other children in the household were allowed to attend school.

4: EXPLOITATION THAT INVOLVES FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION

data source: household survey and interviews with survivors and parents

Reporting of experiences of force, fraud or coercion was common among children in Kambia who were experiencing trafficking within sampled households (in quantitative household surveys) as well as survivors and parents who were interviewed (in qualitative interviews).

Force/Fraud/Coercion Household Survey Results

Children who are subject to force, fraud, and coercion are considered to be victims of trafficking, even if they have not been forced to work in a labor sector classified as hazardous. Trafficked children residing in the sampled households experienced different

forms of force, fraud, or coercion, as listed below. Among the 651 trafficked children in the households, 399 (61.29%) experienced at least one type of force, fraud, or coercion. Of these, 174 experienced more than one form of force, fraud, or coercion.

- 36.56% (194) of the children were forced to work outside the home for little or no wages (about half of them (93) were forced to work for someone who is not a member of the household. This implied that the other half worked outside for the household members)
- 27.80% were forced to work for someone who is not a member of the household
- 22.27% were forced to work to pay for their school fees
- 4.30% performed work that was not agreed upon (e.g., hired for one type of work, but ended up doing another)
- 2.76% were forced to work to repay a debt with an employer or recruiter
- 2.30% were forced or made to beg for alms
- 1.84% performed work that was illegal or immoral (such as stealing, prostitution)
- 0.77% were not allowed to leave or contact their parents

In comparison, findings from the Eastern Province indicated that between 24% (Kenema) and 32% (Kono) of children in surveyed households were forced to work outside of the home for little or no wages, 24% (Kenema) and 39% (Kailahun) were forced to work for someone who is not a member of the household, 15% (Kono) to 31% (Kailahun) were forced to work to pay school fees.

The less common types of force, fraud, and coercion the victim children experienced include: performing work that was not agreed upon (19% Kailahun, 5% Kenema, 6% Kono), forced to work to repay a debt with an employer or recruiter (11% Kailahun, 5% Kenema, 3% Kono), forced or made to beg for alms (4% Kailahun, 5% Kenema, 4% Kono), performing work that was illegal or immoral (3% Kailahun, 1% Kenema, 2% Kono), and not allowed to leave or contact their parents (2% Kailahun, 6% Kenema, 2% Kono).

Qualitative Experiences of Force, Fraud or Coercion

Survivors and parents who were interviewed in Kambia typically reported multiple forms of force, fraud and coercion used by traffickers not only in recruiting victims but also in maintaining control of the victim during the trafficking experience. For example, survivors described traffickers using fraud to recruit a victim by promising them support for school enrollment, and then while in the trafficking situation, using force such as physical assault and coercion such as withholding food.

“[Trafficker] used to lock me in the house after I finished my work and go out. She also threatened me that if any neighbour gives me food she would take them to the police. She only cooked in the house when she returned from work; I have to stay hungry until she came back. As for her child, she would leave food to one of the neighbours for her child to eat when she got hungry.”

—Respondent #12, female survivor, 20 years old, Trader

“The two of us [trafficking victims] were selling while her two sons were going to school. There was a time when the other boy lost Le: 5,000 from the wares that were given to us, she started calling us names, abusing our parents, she almost flogged us. She made a statement that entered my heart and that kept ringing in my mind over and over. She said “the business is for her sons’ education” we should not play with it...”

—Respondent #10, male survivor, 22 years old, Transporter

Survivors and parents indicated that experiences of force, fraud and coercion within the trafficking situation had a lasting impact on their well-being. Some survivors reported seeking help from neighbors or engaging in transactional relationships in order to buy food.

“I was emotionally and physically manhandled. I still live with some of the memories. During the period of trafficking I went to one Auntie Amie who was a nice woman to get her to assist me with some food. When my auntie discovered that she is assisting me with some food items I was given a serious beating and locked up for the whole day. That was when I started encouraging boyfriends who were pretending to be kind to me. They will provide me with money to buy food, and in that process I got pregnant. I was sleeping with multiple men to survive when I went to sell her products.”

—Respondent #13, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

Overall, findings regarding force, fraud or coercion during trafficking were consistent with what was found in the Eastern Province, suggesting that these experiences are common and that survivors experience physical violence and threats during trafficking which can have lasting impacts on their well-being.

5: VULNERABILITIES TO CHILD LABOR AND CHILD TRAFFICKING

data source: all data

Community perspectives about vulnerabilities to child trafficking and child labor drawn from focus group discussions and interviews are presented in this section along with characteristics of child trafficking and child labor victims as indicated by the household survey. Overall, the findings from the household survey suggest that children who are boys (34% higher odds), who are between the ages of 12 and 17 years old (odds ratio 3.54), are not enrolled in a formal school (40% higher odds), are enrolled in a Koranic school/Madrassa (odds ratio 3.73), are orphan (50% higher odds), who contribute to the household expenses (odds ratio 6.05) and who are Muslim (odds ratio was 1.75 relative to those who were Christian) are more likely to experience trafficking than children who do not have these characteristics.

Interviews and focus group discussion respondents echoed some of the findings from the household survey, specifically describing how difficulty enrolling in secondary school can lead to a trafficking situation and also indicating that families who are poor may feel they have no options except to allow their children to work in order to survive. However, respondents in interviews and focus groups also shared several additional structural, familial, personal and social/culture, characteristics that they described as potentially contributing to children’s vulnerability to trafficking. For example, interview and focus group respondents described vulnerabilities due to a lack of community infrastructure, such as schools, roads and hospitals. In addition, in contrast to the survey findings which identified boys as more likely to experience trafficking in Kambia, many respondents in focus group discussions and key informants indicated that they perceived girls as being particularly vulnerable to experiencing trafficking, due to them being sought after for domestic labor. This section will report findings from the household survey and then share findings from the qualitative interviews and focus groups.

Characteristics of Child Trafficking Victims in the Sampled Households

Sex and Age

The percentage of victims of child trafficking who are boys is higher (55.76%) than girls (44.24%), though there are only slightly more boys in the sampled households than girls (989 vs. 953). The odds of being trafficked are 34% higher for boys than for girls. These indicate that male children experience trafficking at a higher rate than female children. This is in line with Kenema (odds ratio of 1.30) but the opposite from Kono (odds ratio of 0.80), while gender differences were not observed in Kailahun (odds ratio of 1.19). As for the age of the victims, 239 out of 1,101 (21.71%) of the children in the sampled households who are 5–11 years old, 181 out of 444 (40.77%) of those who are 12–14 years old, and 231 out of 397 (58.19%) of those aged 15–17 are victims of child trafficking. The odds of being trafficked among children aged 15–17 are 3.73 times that of children aged between 5 and 14. The odds of being trafficked for children aged 12–17 is 3.54 (or 1/0.29) times that of children aged 5–11. This echoes the findings in the Eastern Province that children over the age of 12 are at higher risk of being trafficked.

Disability Status

About 2.30% of the victims of trafficked children have a disability, compared to 2.71% of the non-victims of children. The odds of being trafficked are 15% lower for those with a disability than those without. This is similar to Kailahun, but unlike Kenema and Kono. Children with disabilities in the latter two areas are more likely to face trafficking than children without disabilities (with odds ratio being 0.87 in Kailahun; 1.72 in Kenema; and 1.63 in Kono).

Level of Education

Among 1,942 children in the sampled households, 1,096 (56.44%) completed primary education, 361 (18.59%) completed junior secondary school (JSS), 195 (10.04%) did not receive any education, 118 (6.08%) completed pre-primary education, and 87 (4.48%) completed senior secondary school (SSS). Among victims of child trafficking, 53.00% have a primary school education, 25.50% have a junior secondary school (JSS) education, and about 9.06% do not have any education.

Currently Enrolled in a Formal School

Nearly 90% of child trafficking victims and non-victim children are currently enrolled in a formal school. The odds of being trafficked are 40% higher for children who are not enrolled in a formal school than those who are.

Similarly, lack of enrollment in formal schools acts as a risk factor for the trafficking situation for children in the Eastern Province. In Kailahun, children not enrolled in formal schools were 114% more likely to be trafficked than children enrolled in formal schools. In Kenema, the figure was 56% higher, and in Kono, the figure was 46% higher.

Koranic School/Madrassa

As we can see, 25.81% of child trafficking victims and 8.52% of non-victim children are enrolled in a Koranic school/madrassa. The odds of being trafficked for children enrolled in a Koranic school/madrassa are 3.73 times that of children who do not attend a Koranic school/madrassa. This figure was 2.32 times in Kailahun, 1.09 times in Kenema, and 1.14 times in Kono.

Orphanhood

Approximately 12% of child trafficking victims and 9% of non-victim children are double orphans, meaning that they have lost both of their parents. 2.15% of the victims and 0.77% of the non-victims are single orphans. About 86% of the victims and 90% of the non-victims are not orphans. The odds of being trafficked among orphans are around 1.5 (or 1/0.67) times that of non-orphans. Similar findings were found in the Eastern Province. The odds were 2.13 (or 1/0.47) times in Kailahun, 1.28 (or 1/0.78) in Kenema, and 2.33 (or 1/0.43) in Kono.

Contribution to Household Expenses

45.78% of child trafficking victims and 12.24% of non-victim children contribute to the expenses of the household. The odds of being trafficked for children contributing to the expenses of the households are 6.05 times of children who do not. In the Eastern Province, we found this number was 5.93 times in Kailahun, 6.19 in Kenema, and 2.48 in Kono.

Religion

The percentage of child trafficking victims who are Muslim is 98.16%, while a similar proportion of non-victims are Muslim (96.82%). The percentage of victims who are Christian is 1.84%, and the proportion of non-victims who are Christian is 3.18%. This gives Muslim children higher odds of being trafficked than Christian children (1.75 odds ratio). This is consistent with the findings in the Eastern Province, with odds ratio of 1.40 in Kailahun, 1.29 in Kenema and 1.20 in Kono.

Characteristics of Child Labor Victims in the Sampled Households

Sex and Age

The sex distribution of the household children who were classified as victims of child labor or non-victims of child labor were compared. 53.60% of the victims as compared to 49.14% of the non-victims were boys. The odds of being involved in child labor was 20% higher for boys than for girls. Similar to the findings for the CT children in the Eastern Province, gender differences were not obvious in the risk of CL in Kailahun (odds ratio 1.11), while boys were at greater risk for CL in Kenema (odds ratio 1.34) and girls in Kono (odds ratio 0.79).

As for the age of the victims, about 43% of the victims and 66% of the non-victims were aged between 5 and 11; approximately 27% of the victims and 20% of the non-victims were aged between 12 and 14; and around 30% of the victims as compared to 14% of the non-victims were aged between 15 and 17. The odds of being involved in child labor were 2.61 times higher for children aged between 15 and 17 than for those aged between 5 and 14. The odds of being involved in child labor for those aged between 12 and 17 were 2.56 (or 1/0.39) times the odds for children aged between 5 and 11. These were consistent with the Eastern regions, where the odds ratio for children over 12 years old was higher in the three districts (2.1 in Kailahun, 2.2 in Kenema, and 2.7 in Kono).

Disability Status

Children with and without a disability have similar odds of being involved in child labor. In Kambia, 2.31% of the CL victims as compared to 2.75% of the non-victim children have a disability. Having a disability was not a risk factor for children in Kailahun (odds of 0.8), Kenema (odds of 1.6) or Kono (odds of 0.94).

Level of Education

Among children who reside in the sampled households, 57% are aged between 5 and 11, 23% are aged between 12 and 14, and 20% are aged between 15 and 17. As for their level of education, around 56% of the victims and 57% of non-victims have a primary education, around 23% of the victims and 16% of the non-victims have Junior Secondary School education, while 8% of the victims and 11% of the non-victims do not have any educational degree.

Currently Enrolled in a Formal School

10.67% of the victims of child labor as compared to 8.33% of the non-victims were not currently enrolled in a formal school. The odds of being involved in child labor were 31% higher for those who did not attend a formal school. Similar findings were observed in the Eastern Province, where the odds of being in CL for children not enrolled in a formal school were 2.13 in Kailahun, 1.64 in Kenema, and 1.32 in Kono.

Koranic School/Madrassa

Among victims of child labor, 23.52% were enrolled in Koranic school/madrassa as compared to 8.16% among non-victims. The odds of being involved in child labor

for those who were enrolled in Koranic school/madrassa are 3.46 times that of those who were not enrolled in a Koranic school/madrassa. These align with the findings in Kailahun (odds ratio 2.2) and Kono (odds ratio 1.94). In Kenema, enrolling in a Koranic school/madrassa did not significantly impact the risk of being involved in CL (odds of 1.13).

Orphanhood

Approximately 12% of the victims as compared to 9% of the non-victims were double orphans, having lost both of their parents. Approximately 2% of the victims and 0.77% of the non-victims are single orphans, who lost one parent. A majority of victims (86.25%) have both parents alive. The odds of being involved in child labor for orphans is 1.47 times that of those who have both parents alive. Being an orphan, either single or double, appeared to be a notable risk factor for being involved in CL in the Eastern Province as well, with odds ratio of 2.1 in Kailahun, 1.4 in Kenema, and 2.7 in Kono.

Contribution to Household Expenses

40.87% of the CL victims as compared to 11.86% of non-victims contribute to the expenses of the household. The odds of being involved in child labor for those who contribute to the expenses of the household are 5.14 times that of those who do not. Children contributing to the expenses of the households also indicated a higher risk of CL in Kailahun (odds of 5.24), Kenema (odds of 6.21), and Kono (odds of 1.63).

Religion

About 97.69% of victims and 96.99% of non-victims are Muslim. Around 2% of the victims and 3% of the non-victims are Christian. This said, Muslim children faced a higher risk of being involved in CL than Christian children in Kambia. This was also held in the Eastern Province (odds ratio to Christian was 1.20 in Kailahun, 1.20 in Kenema, and 1.61 in Kono).

Comparing Findings Between Kambia and the Eastern Province

Many common factors and characteristics of trafficked children were found both in Kambia and the Eastern Province. Results from both studies suggest that children who lost one or two parents, children of secondary school age (between 12 and 17 years old), children who contributed to the household expenses, children not enrolled in formal schools, children enrolled in Koranic/madrassa schools, and children who practice the Muslim religion were more likely to experience trafficking (Okech et al., 2022).

However, there are a few key differences in the characteristics of child trafficking and child labor victims in Kambia compared to the same group in the Eastern Province. The most notable difference is that results in Kambia indicated that gender may be a vulnerability factor, with the finding that boys are more likely than girls to experience CT and CL. In the Eastern Province, there were no consistent findings on gender differences in the likelihood of trafficking across the three eastern districts. Gender differences were not evident in Kailahun, while boys were at higher risk of CT and CL in Kenema, but girls were at higher risk in Kono (Okech et al., 2022). Another difference was that disability was not a risk factor for CT in Kambia and Kailahun, but it was a risk factor in Kenema and Kono. Disability had no effect on the risk of CL in all districts.

Community Perspectives About Vulnerabilities to Child Trafficking and Child Labor

Three major categories emerged from analyzing perspectives of respondents in FGDs and interviews about potential vulnerabilities to child trafficking and child labor: 1) structural, 2) personal and familial and 3) social/cultural. Each category of vulnerability was described as intersecting and influencing each other, for example family circumstances such as the death of a parent were often described as intersecting with poverty which then led to an experience of trafficking.

Structural

Respondents across all groups (FGDs and interviews) described poverty and a lack of infrastructure as major structural vulnerabilities to child trafficking and child labor. There were perceptions that the divide between cities and rural areas in terms of access to resources was a driving factor for children and families to seek placements, which could be risky.

“...Developmental projects are slow to come here...There are no good roads, no good schools, no good hospitals or good standard of living here. We have been hearing of the good and favorable standard of living people in big towns and cities are privileged to have...All of us want to have good standard of living for ourselves and our children. If such opportunities come for our children to go to big towns or cities...That is why I said the decision to allow our children to go to big towns or cities is only by guessing, hoping and praying that what the individual promised the child will be fulfilled...”

—FGD #1, Adult and Elder Women

Survivors who were interviewed described how lack of community infrastructure (such as hospitals, good roads or secondary schools) plus experiences of poverty and hunger led to their family’s decision to place the child with a family member who lived in a higher resource community. Relatedly, survivors and parents emphasized the lack of access to schooling (either due to a lack of schools or due to a lack of funds to pay for schooling) as being a major contributor to a child’s vulnerability to trafficking.

“There is a certain woman who usually comes and buys goods here and returns to Freetown but we are not related in any way...She saw my child and requested to take DAUGHTER away with her to help me with her schooling since her father is dead and schooling here is difficult. Also, here there is no proper care for the girl child and living conditions are tough especially when her father is dead. We normally go to peoples’ farms and work for our survival...R: As a result of the death of her father and to safeguard her from early pregnancy. Also due to poor living conditions”

—Respondent #4, mother of a survivor, Farmer

“The thing that led to this trafficking is because my parents don’t have money for me to continue my schooling in the village. And at the age I was trafficked I was really not of the right age for a child to leave his or her parents but because of poverty that is why all this happened.”

—Respondent #13, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

Respondents in focus group discussions and key informants echoed the experiences of survivors and parents suggesting that the impact of poverty, generally described as families who had difficulty having enough food or basic resources for the household, may make parents more easily manipulated by traffickers into giving their children away.

“We are hard-pressed by poverty and we involve in giving our children away to others as a way to minimize the pressure of poverty...I run after people to help me take care of my children. One of [my children] has changed from one household to another in four different locations now because she cannot undergo the serious constraints experienced in those homes. She brought complaints of not getting sufficient food to eat, of being maltreated, and she had to travel to the village every weekend.”

—FGD #4, Adult and Elder Men

Personal and Familial

Personal and familial characteristics such as, single parent headed household (death or parental separation), parental illness, being an orphan, having lots of children in a household, and experiencing household violence were indicated by respondents across groups as being potential vulnerabilities to child trafficking. For example, becoming a single parent (due to spousal death or separation) was noted by parents and survivors as a factor that increased vulnerability, due to a loss of income or support from the other parent.

“I and my late husband had eight children together. But I lost him when our last child was four months old. Responsibilities of taking care of all the children including myself were way too much on me.”

—Respondent #5, mother of survivor, Trader

In addition, some FGD respondents, key informants and survivors suggested that household violence (especially gender-based violence) may increase vulnerability for child trafficking, leading children to run away from their biological family or driving a decision regarding informal foster care placement.

“Domestic violence is also a factor that leads to trafficking. Children run away from homes due to prolong beating by parents or guardians. Such kids fall into the hands of traffickers who take them out of the community. Gender discrimination is yet another factor including what I mentioned earlier which is the pull and push factor. Lack of opportunities further places persons at risk for trafficking.”

—Respondent # 16, KII, NGO, District Coordinator

“I was living with my parents together with six other siblings...My aunt came and told my parents that she will like me to join her family and she will treat me like her own child... my mother rejected [the request] outright and told my aunt that she had seen suffering behind adoption based on experience, so she was against it. My father on the other hand rejected my mother's plea and insisted I should go with my aunt...my father was upset and started beating my mother and later asked her to go back to her parents because

she was disobeying him in his household. My aunt was now able to take me with her... Meanwhile, my mum was with her parent during this period and she later came back and found out that I had been taken away.”

—Respondent #14, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

Social and Cultural

A number of social and cultural factors were perceived by respondents as related to child trafficking vulnerability, including gendered expectations and discrimination of girls, lack of participation rights within households and communities (for children and women), and the practice of Informal foster care. For example, some respondents in FGDs suggested that being a girl increased vulnerability because of expectations for them to marry, learn domestic work and not go to school -- and because they are “of less value”.

“These girls are denied their right to good education because their parents believe a girl is meant for marry and domestic work... [The] girl child is of less value in their family, most of the time they are carried away from their family to other foster parents to be taken care of.”

—FGD #2, Young Adult Women

“The girls face internal trafficking more than the boys especially to provide domestic labour and to serve business interests. Many caretakers are saying that boys are difficult to control once they are getting through their puberty stage whereas the girls are often easily managed in the home.”

—FGD #4, Adult and Elder Men

Additionally, some respondents indicated that the lack of participation rights for children and women in the household can contribute to vulnerability.

“In this community the women don't have voice in their homes. Only the men have saying in decision making regarding the children. Whatever the father says is final. The fathers are more involved in this child trafficking than the mothers. They always arrange to take these children away from their mother...Problems faced by young people and children are exploitation and engagement in domestic servitude, forced labour and lack of voice in decision making.”

—FGD #2, Young Adult Women

Respondents in FGDs and key informants suggested that informal foster care children may be at increased risk for experiencing trafficking due to their status as non-biological children living in a foster household. FGD respondents suggested that the tradition itself is not the issue and pointed out that many adults had a positive experience of informal foster care while they were children, however, respondents indicated a concern that some people may manipulate the traditional practice for exploitive purposes.

“Child trafficking is happening here a lot. A lot of children have been suffering in the hands of an aunt, uncle, cousin, nephew etc. The act is acquiring a child in the name of helping so cheap and common. That is part of our culture. We meet our parents doing it. In fact, some of us seated here were taken care of by other relations. We might not have gone through what this child in [vignette] went through. It is only by the Grace of God we are here today.”

—FGD #1, Adult and Elder Women

6: PERSPECTIVES ABOUT LEAVING A TRAFFICKING SITUATION AND RE-INTEGRATION POST-TRAFFICKING

data source: qualitative interviews with survivors and parents and FGDs

This section draws from interviews with survivors and parents of survivors in exploring their experiences with and perspectives about leaving trafficking and re-integration post-trafficking.

Leaving Trafficking

The findings in this section echo findings from the Sierra Leone baseline report conducted in the Eastern Province (Okech et al., 2022), in that survivors and parents reported sometimes having help from friends, neighbors or family members who provided transportation or other assistance such as temporary shelter to enable a survivor to leave. No survivors or parents were interviewed in Kambia and only a few who were interviewed in the Eastern Province, reported having help from authorities or NGOs to leave trafficking.

“In the morning my aunt told me to go do some laundry for her by the riverside and I went straight to the woman that wants to help me escape to explain to her about the situation. Finally, that was a perfect opportunity for to me escape. I sold some of the clothes I was told to wash to generate some money for transport fares. We finally reached Kambia and I stayed at my friend’s place for over a week and I was finally able to get the name of my parent’s village...”

—Respondent #14, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

“It only stopped when I travelled back to my mother. There was a taxi driver in our area named TAXI DRIVER who helped me. Sometimes when my aunt locked me in the house, TAXI DRIVER would buy me food and pass it through the window...One day, my aunt went out. I used that opportunity and escaped through the window with the things that TAXI DRIVER had bought for me, after which I closed the window silently for no one to know about my escape. He used his car to escape with me from the area so that no one will notice us because if anyone sees us, my aunt would’ve known about my escape.”

—Respondent #12, female survivor, 20 years old, Trader

Similarly to what was reported by survivors in the Eastern Province, some female survivors in Kambia reported that they had to enter into transactional relationships or romantic relationships in order to leave their trafficking situation. Relatedly, some reported that becoming pregnant was a catalyst for the trafficker to kick the survivor out of the house, thus ending the trafficking situation.

“...I was afraid I could get pregnant and be abandoned by the man. So, I waited until I could no longer resist my sister’s husband’s sexual harassment. If not for that sexual harassment, I think I will be living with my sister still...I took upon myself to manage it up to the time I couldn’t endure the harassment anymore. That was the time I entered into a relationship with my husband...The bondage I was in stopped when I agreed to marry my boyfriend. As soon as I got married everything stopped.”

—Respondent #11, female survivor, 21 years old, unemployed and not in school

Survivors in both baseline assessments reported that they had challenges communicating with family while attempting to leave the trafficking experience and also reported difficulties convincing their parents or family members that they were not being treated well at the trafficker’s home.

“After 10 years DAUGHTER started sending messages with people that came here always to do business because she remembers her village name. In her messages she said that she is not going to school and she is suffering. She complained that she will die if I don’t go for her. She said she was the one doing all the household chores and finding money for her master to take care of her own children that were going to school. I met the chief and other family members to help me with money to bring back my child. Her dad is dead and I am the only one suffering with my children. My family members gave me some money to bring back my child. I brought her back with me but at the moment she is pregnant without father for the pregnancy.”

—Respondent #1, mother of a survivor, Farmer

Re-integration Post-trafficking

Survivors and parents interviewed in Kambia reported experiencing emotional and social challenges during re-integration, affirming the experiences of survivors and parents in the Eastern Province. Survivors and parents in Kambia reported receiving help from community members and family members post-trafficking, with basic resources and school enrollment, but no survivors or parents reported receiving any help from government agencies or NGOs.

“I didn’t receive any help from anyone. I asked my uncles to help me but they said that they can’t afford to take care of me. The only help that I received during my stay in Makeni was from TAXI DRIVER. When I came back there was an organization called NGO. My mother took me to them to help me but the organization said that they were only supporting those from 17 and 18, by then I was 16 years old. That program had closed.”

—Respondent #12, female survivor, 20 years old, Trader

Parents reported facing challenges providing basic resources and emotional support to their children and survivors reported having trouble finding something to do in their community (often having difficulty enrolling in school, vocational training or finding a job).

“What we needed at that time was financial support for her to return to school. By the time she returned, we were facing financial difficulty. We didn’t get the support we needed and as such, she had to wait for a whole academic year without going to school. It’s only this

academic year that we are able to send her back to school. Yesterday, she was asked to leave school because of her school-hat but since today is a holiday, we have decided to contribute le 45000 each because it cost Le 90,000. At the end of the week we'll be able to buy it for her."

—Respondent #2, mother of survivor, Trader

Survivors described feeling frustrated that they had missed out on school opportunities and shared they felt they were too old to attend school. Only a few survivors had been able to enroll in a vocational training program post-trafficking, many reported that they were unemployed and not attending school. Some survivors described selling to survive after returning home post-trafficking without access to education or vocational opportunities beyond selling.

"My immediate need after this bad experience was to go back to school and do business. I am presently staying with my family selling mango and cassava to survive."

—Respondent #13, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

A few survivors reported entering into transactional relationships in order to survive post-trafficking.

"I later relocated to my friend's village who helped me escape from my aunt's trouble. There too life was difficult for her and her family. I do not want to put all of my burden on them so I couldn't help myself but to go into the bush and started fetching firewood and mango to sell and feed myself. This one continues until I met a man who deceived me with lies and impregnated me again."

—Respondent #14, female survivor, 22 years old, Trader

In addition, survivors and parents reported lasting emotional impacts from the trafficking experience, which was indicated by survivors isolating themselves, crying or showing signs of depression.

"She is attending school, eats food every day. Her sense of maturity has grown and helps me a lot at home. She needs counseling as she has been deflowered. We try our best to encourage her that it is not her fault and so should not feel guilty for the rest of her life. She is fine for now...She is now shy to take bath together with her colleagues unlike in the past before she was taken away. She hardly speaks when she is with her peers. She has also gotten used to trading now which is annoying to me."

—Respondent #4, mother of survivor, Farmer

"She is still a child. What she has gone through is a lesson learnt. When she came back newly, she was so closed up and very shy. That was not the daughter I used to know. It took me time to encourage her that all is not lost. Now I am beginning to see some positive improvement in her behaviour."

—Respondent #5, mother of survivor, Trader

Some community members in FGDs described negative perspectives about victims of trafficking who return to the community, suggesting that the trafficking experience has made the trafficking victim "good-for nothing" as a result of their experiences.

"The boys cannot again help out with the farm work upon return from where most have been working providing domestic labour or street trading. We do farm work here and we could only count on their help on the farms...Many people here do consider the boys coming back after the trafficking experience as good-for-nothing with nothing valuable to offer to us here...Some are only bringing in bad influences from outside, playing music on phones and even confusing our girls in the village."

—FGD #4, Adult and Elder Men

Some parents reported experiencing discrimination from community members when their children returned to the community. The findings suggest that negative perspectives about victims of child trafficking may make reintegration difficult or promote discrimination against children and youth who return to the community post-trafficking.

7: COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CHILD TRAFFICKING AND RESPONDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

data source: All qualitative interviews and focus groups

This section will explore FGD and KII respondents' perspectives about the community response to child trafficking in Kambia as well as respondent recommendations regarding potential service and policy gaps. For an in-depth analysis of policy and service gaps in child trafficking response at the national level in Sierra Leone please see the "Analysis of Service and Policy Gaps" section in the Eastern Province, Sierra Leone baseline report (Okech et al., 2022).

Perspectives about Community Response

FGD respondents had mixed views about whether or not authorities respond after a report about a potential child trafficking case is made. For example, during a discussion between community members in an FGD differing viewpoints were expressed:

M: What happens once these authorities/persons have been notified?

R 2: When the authorities have been notified, they help the family to get the child back to his or her family.

R 9: The authorities have been notified, the chief will inform the police and the police will go with the family to get the child.

R 3: At times nothing is done when the authorities are notified.

R 10: At times if you are lucky the Chief or the police will help you to get your child back but at times no action is taken.

R 6: No action is taken when the authorities are notified.

R 1: No action is taken.

—FGD #2, Young Adult Women

As illustrated in the exchange above, many respondents in FGDs indicated that there was often no response from authorities when a child trafficking case was reported, or that the main response from authorities was to return a child to their parents. Prosecution and arrest of traffickers were not described as the primary response to child trafficking. Community members in FGDs shared that reporting of child trafficking is happening in communities, and provided examples of reporting to police, local leaders, and FSUs, but again there were little indications that something happens as a result of a report. Respondents also stressed the social burden of reporting and shared that there was a stigma against reporting child maltreatment or exploitation to authorities, especially if the situation is occurring within the family or community.

M: What happens once these authorities/persons have been notified?

R1: When these matters are happening and the neighbours have seen that they have treated this child badly and that neighbour reports them, they will attack such neighbour. This is what is happening.

R4: Any time someone from the village reports another person to the Sierra Leone Police for an act like this, they will tell everybody that this person is the one who reported. They will bear a grudge for you.

—FGD #3, Young Adult Men

In addition, some respondents, from FGDs as well as key informants, shared a view that parental rights and responsibilities over their children could hinder attempts by outsiders to intervene on behalf of a child, because intervening in a family's private matters was described as socially unacceptable.

“[Implementation of by-laws] will not happen here because some are of the opinion that they have given birth to their child. They do not need to seek permission for their child to go out to someone of their choice. They are saying I give my child out to whosoever I feel like.”

—FGD #3, Young Adult Men

“The community is trying to stop what is happening to our children in this community, but all efforts are not working because parents have primary control over the children and not the community.”

—FGD #2, Young Adult Women

FGD and KII respondents in Kambia described existing laws that address trafficking or violence against children, however, there was a general perception that the laws are not effectively implemented. FGD respondents across groups (young women, adult men, etc.) suggested that anti-trafficking laws were not working “because of poverty” and shared a view that parents are sometimes desperate for help to support their children and will send them into a potentially risky situation because they may feel that they do not have a choice.

R 9: The chief and the elder of councils have sat together to make laws against child trafficking but the law is not working because of poverty.

R 4: Laws are in place but not working, because people think that law makers are not the ones taking care of their children. When a potential opportunity is presented to parents, they grab it.

—FGD #2, Young Adult Women

A few FGD respondents (community leaders) and key informant respondents indicated that perpetrators were jailed or fined in accordance with the anti-trafficking laws, however no specific examples of this occurring were provided by respondents in any group.

“R5: It is not like before when child trafficking issues were compromised. Anyone suspected of these acts of trafficking children in this community is now dealt with by the law and the chieftom authorities are not allowing any compromise when perpetrators are caught and brought before them.”

—FGD #4, Adult and Elder Men

Respondent Recommendations

Respondents in FGDs and KIIs in Kambia shared similar perspectives regarding gaps in responding to child trafficking within local communities, such as a general lack of response to child trafficking cases, a lack of implementation of anti-trafficking laws, and a lack of support for survivors during re-integration post-trafficking. The most commonly described gap was in the arrest and prosecution of traffickers. KIIs interviewed in Kambia echoed KIIs interviewed in the Eastern Province baseline study, noting that there were little to no CT initiatives in local communities, a lack of safe houses for CT victims, a lack of referral organizations to provide services (such as psycho-social support) for trafficking victims, and inadequate resources (such as funding and staff) for anti-trafficking work.

“Our number one key challenge is lack of safe home. We don't have a safe home where we can place children by separating them from those found maltreating them...That is a very big challenge for my organization in our fight against child trafficking. Second challenge is finding a referral pathway. We have problem with that and even the support we need to give to the victims of trafficking in terms of finance is inadequate.”

—Respondent #16, KII, NGO, District Coordinator

“There are no available initiatives for now in our community to help victims and survivors of child trafficking. We have plans towards skills training centre to be available here. But that is yet a plan to come to fruition.”

—Respondent # 15, KII, Community Leader, Paramount Chief

Survivors, parents and key informants interviewed in Kambia made several recommendations for community leaders, government officials and NGOs to address perceived gaps in services and policies. The recommendations made by respondents in Kambia largely echo those made by respondents in the Eastern Province.

- **Strengthen and expand developmental programs**, especially in rural towns, through building more and improving access to secondary and primary schools, investing in qualified teachers, and expanding social and community centers for youth. Respondents suggested that the construction and staffing of more secondary schools in rural areas was particularly important in regard to reducing trafficking, as they viewed this as decreasing the pressure for youth to travel in order to attend school.

“I think the best thing is papa government should build more schools and bring a lot of social activities in the villages. We have laws against child trafficking but not working because of poverty. Let there be more developmental programs in the villages.”

— Respondent #1, mother of survivor, Farmer

“I wish there was a secondary school in my village. Yes, I was in need of education and my sister came and promised one. She deceived my parents and me that she was going to educate me but she did not.”— Respondent #11, female survivor, 21 years old, unemployed and not in school

- **Increase financial and resource support for families** including cash support for struggling families through microcredit and providing seed to farmers.

“Just like the government were doing before, giving seeds to farmers; in return they double it. By so doing, we will be able to raise more produce and sell, take care of our children so that they will not be trafficked.”

—Respondent #6, father of survivor, Farmer

“We are to ensure that we get assistance from the government in terms of food, micro-credit, and clothing. Here in this community, some persons can be seen to be wearing particular clothing over and over for two to three years. Let organizations also give helping hands to this effort of bringing development initiatives for us in our communities.”

—Respondent #15, KII, Community Leader, Paramount Chief

- **Raise awareness about the potential risks of placing children in informal foster care, in terms of exploitation and abuse.** Also, suggestions were made to support parents in deciding to keep their children at home (increased financial support), or to stay connected to children while they are in informal foster care placements and to assist parents who need to remove their child if they are in an exploitative situation.

“I would like for parents to have been aware of these kinds of bad people who come and lie to them that they would take care of their child but they would go and do something bad to them. That way, my mother would not have accepted for me to go and face the suffering that I went through.”

—Respondent #9, female survivor, 20 years old, unemployed and not in school

“When our son returned to us, people in the community learnt that, they should not give their child to anyone coming from the city or big town. Some of the people in this community who had their children staying with someone else started calling, doing background check on how their child is doing and those whose child were not well taking care of did everything possible to have them returned to their family. Now the paramount chief has introduced a bye-law in Dixin Chiefdom that no child should be taken from their family without his consent and he must know where they are taking the child to.”

—Respondent #6, father of survivor, Farmer

- **Monitor informal foster care placements to ensure that children are safe.** Survivors and parents suggested that local community leaders and other authorities should be involved in monitoring informal foster care placements and follow-up with families if there is an issue.

“Parents should make sure they keep in touch with their child no matter the distances and see how their child is doing. If the child is not treated the way they promised, the government should involve and arrest the person.”

—Respondent #10, male survivor, 22 years old, Transporter

- **Speak up about child trafficking and child abuse.** Survivors and parents encouraged community members to “raise their voice” when a child is in a potential trafficking situation because children who are experiencing trafficking may be in a position where they are unable to advocate for themselves. Survivors reported that sometimes their biological family was hesitant to believe that the survivors were living in an exploitative trafficking situation, having support from neighbors and friends bolstered the survivors claims and encouraged the family to take action.

“The authorities too should be cross checking that any child who has been trafficked, the law should intervene. The community too should intervene. If they happen to have children in this situation, they should intervene and raise their voice for this trafficking to stop.”

—Respondent #8, male survivor, 20 years old, Transporter

Importantly, some respondents suggested that although they think it is important to report or intervene in a child trafficking situation, they are unsure about how to do this, indicating a need for increased attention to facilitating reporting and community intervention in cases of child trafficking.

“Well, from now on, if we happen to see a child who needs help, what do we do for that child? Because when you take such discussion to the foster parents of the child, the parents will not take it kindly. He or she will say, this is not your child and that you are not minding you are business. When you continue maybe you will end up having trouble with the foster parents. So what are we to do when we come across such child or children?”

—Respondent #3, father of survivor, carpenter

• **Implement laws to fight against trafficking.** Respondents generally recommended that increased efforts be put into implementing laws that fight against trafficking, such as through supporting enforcement of bylaws in local communities.

“One is to implement anti-trafficking bylaws by the Paramount chiefs and chieftom committee. We have these bylaws made already only awaiting government approval. And secondly, we need skills training centre as a way to help child trafficking victims and survivors and the youths in general to learn income generating means.”

—Respondent #15, KII, Community Leader, Paramount Chief

“It is not good to destroy another person’s child for your own economic or domestic needs. Defaulters like [trafficker], should be brought to book. If the Government and NGOs could help in this fight against child trafficking, it would be of great benefit to us. Also put laws and bring other people to provide counseling to victims and raise public awareness on this.”

—Respondent #4, mother of survivor, Farmer



CONCLUSIONS

Child trafficking and child labor is very prevalent in the Kambia district, and both pose a significant challenge for community members and stakeholders who are seeking to effectively prevent and respond to child trafficking. Our study found that in 2021, a little over 1 in 3 children (34%, 5-17 years old) experienced child trafficking and 40% of 5-17-year-old children experienced child labor in the Kambia district. Children were reported to have experienced trafficking in hazardous labor sectors, especially portering, and also in labor sectors not classified as hazardous, such as in domestic work and agriculture.

Experiences of force, fraud or coercion during trafficking were common. Being forced to work outside the home for little or no wages, forced to work for someone who is not a member of the household or, being forced to work to pay for their school fees were the most often reported trafficking-related experiences in the household survey. Survivors described multiple forms of force, fraud or coercion used by traffickers to maintain control, such as the use of violence, withholding food, threats, and false promises.

Respondents described significant vulnerabilities which could increase the risk of trafficking, such as structural conditions (lack of schools and other infrastructure), familial characteristics (such as the loss of a parent), and social/cultural characteristics (such as the use of informal placements without monitoring). Interestingly, qualitative reports and quantitative survey results appeared to differ in assessing the importance of gender as a potential vulnerability factor. Qualitative respondents suggested that girls may be more vulnerable to trafficking than boys due to gender-based discrimination and violence.

However, the quantitative survey indicated that boys were more likely than girls to experience trafficking. More research needs to be done to determine what effects gender may have on trafficking vulnerability.



There may be an interaction between the type of trafficking and gender, such as domestic work versus portering for example, which could mean that gender may be related to trafficking vulnerability in complex ways.

Importantly, in a similar finding to what was found in the eastern province, survivors and parents reported that post-trafficking conditions were difficult and sometimes were similar to the conditions faced before trafficking, meaning that survivors who return to their home communities or who remain in the community where they experienced trafficking may face significant vulnerabilities to building a life post-trafficking, which could increase their risk of experiencing trafficking again or finding themselves in an exploitative situation.

Survivors and parents reported a lack of post-trafficking resources and supports, including basic resources, psychosocial supports, and vocational opportunities, which were described as being exacerbated by discrimination against survivors who returned to their community. Survivors were faced with the triple challenge of lacking skills and

education for meeting their career goals, lacking resources needed to gain skills and education and feeling burdened by trauma from their experiences during trafficking, saddened by missed opportunities for education and skill building, and uncertain about what the future holds.



However, community members, key informants, the anti-trafficking taskforce, survivors, and parents, shared several recommendations that they feel could be a good roadmap for preventing trafficking and meaningfully responding to trafficking when it happens. Recommendations include increasing resources for developmental projects and struggling families, monitoring informal child welfare placements, strengthening support for speaking up about child trafficking and child abuse, and improving anti-trafficking laws and implementation.



TABLES & FIGURES

TABLE 1: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY SAMPLE ALLOCATION

Characteristics	Number
Total number of Households	53,826
No. of Sampled Households	1,008
No. of Children Aged 5-17 in the Sampled Households	1,942
% Urban	29.20%
No. of Urban EAs	11
No. of Rural EAs	15
No. of Urban Households	274
No. of Rural Households	734

Data source for No. of Households: Statistics Sierra Leone 2016. Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census, Summary of Final Results: Planning A Better Future. Freetown, Sierra Leone: Statistics Sierra Leone. https://www.statistics.sl/images/StatisticsSL/Documents/final-results_-2015_population_and_housing_census.pdf

Data source for % Urban: Statistics Sierra Leone (2017). Sierra Leone 2015 Population and housing census national analytical report. <https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/National%20Analytical%20Report.pdf>

Table 2 reports characteristics of sampled houses. As for types of toilets used, most of the households use pit latrines with slab (69.05%), followed by ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines (10.81%) and bush latrines (9.33%). Almost 90% of the households reported that they use candles or torch lights as their main source of lighting. About 42% of the households use a public tap as the main source of drinking water, followed by a dug well (34.03%) and river/stream (21.73%). Wood was the most used main fuel for cooking (85.52%), followed by charcoal (14.19%).

TABLE 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Characteristics	Count	Percent
Total	1008	100.00
Type of toilet used by the household		
Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system	21	2.08
Flush/pour flush to septic tank	15	1.49
Flush/pour to pit latrine	20	1.98
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine	109	10.81
Pit Latrine with slab	696	69.05
Composting Toilet	53	5.26
Bush	94	9.33
Main source of lighting for the dwelling		
Electric lights	60	5.95
Kerosene or gas lamps	3	0.30
Candles or torch light	893	88.59
Generator	7	0.69
Other	45	4.46
Main source of drinking water		
Public tap	419	41.57
Dug well	343	34.03
Natural Spring	9	0.89
Rainwater	16	1.59
Bottled Water	1	0.10
River/Stream	219	21.73
Other	1	0.10
Main fuel used by the household for cooking		
Electricity	1	0.10
LPG/natural gas/biogas	1	0.10
Kerosene	1	0.10
Coal/lignite	0	0.00
Charcoal	143	14.19
Wood	862	85.52
Straw/Shrub/grass	0	0.00
Agricultural crop	0	0.00
No food cooked in household	0	0.00
Other	0	0.00

TABLE 3: MEANS (CIS) OF SURVEY ITEMS ASSESSING WELFARE OF THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Household Welfare Items	Mean (CI)
By Sierra Leonean standards, your household is really well off	4 (2,5)
Your household finds it difficult to live on its current income	2 (1,5)
Generally, there is enough food for all the people in this household	4 (2,5)
Generally, there is enough money for school fees to send every child in the household to school	4 (2,5)
Generally, there is enough money to supply clothing for everyone in the household	4 (2,5)
Generally, there is enough money to buy medicine for everyone in the household	4 (2,5)

The items are evaluated on a scale of 1–5, with 1 being strongly agree and 5 being strongly disagree. Thus, a score of 4 indicates disagree, and a score of 2 indicates agree. Each cell contains the mean response value and the 95% confidence interval in parenthesis.

Respondents, on average, disagreed with the statements that their household is really well off, there is enough food for all the people in the household, there is enough money for school fees to send every child in the household to school, and that there is enough money to supply clothing or medicine for everyone in the household. The respondents, on average, agreed with the statement that their household found it difficult to live on its current income. These responses indicate widespread economic deprivation among the sampled households.

TABLE 4: POINT ESTIMATE AND PREVALENCE RATES OF CT AND CL USING TRADITIONAL SURVEY METHODS AND NSUM

Methods	Child Trafficking		Child Labor	
	Point Estimate (95% CI)	Prevalence Rate (95% CI)	Point Estimate (95% CI)	Prevalence Rate (95% CI)
Traditional survey method	39155 (36889, 41542)	33.52 (31.58, 35.56)	46794 (44271, 49323)	40.06 (37.90, 42.23)
NSUM	4850 (4373, 5356)	4.15 (3.74, 4.59)	5641(5115, 6196)	4.83 (4.38, 5.30)

TABLE 5: EXPLOITATIVE LABOR SECTORS EXPERIENCED BY TRAFFICKED CHILDREN RESIDING IN THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Labor Sectors	Count	Percent (%)
Portering	158	24.27
Fishing	89	13.67
Construction	31	4.76
Mining/quarrying	15	2.30
Manufacturing	8	1.23
Commercial sex	3	0.46

Note: Recall that we classify children as victims of child trafficking when children experience any of the following conditions (1) work in hazardous labor sectors (2) experience hazardous labor activities, or (3) are forced, frauded, or coerced to work. The first column presents the hazardous labor sectors that classify children as trafficked.

TABLE 6: HAZARDOUS LABOR ACTIVITIES EXPERIENCED BY TRAFFICKED CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Dangerous Labor Experiences	Count	Percent (%)
Exposure to Extreme Cold, Heat, or Humidity	305	46.85
Carrying Heavy Loads	302	46.39
Operating Heavy Machinery or Worked with Dangerous Tools	88	13.52
Exposure to Dust, Fumes, or Gases	64	9.83
Exposure to Loud Noise or Vibration	13	2.00

Note: Recall that we classify children as victims of child trafficking when children experience any of the following conditions (1) work in hazardous labor sectors (2) experience hazardous labor activities, or (3) are forced, frauded, or coerced to work. The first column presents the hazardous labor activities that classify children as trafficked.

TABLE 7: FORCE, FRAUD, AND COERCION EXPERIENCED BY TRAFFICKED CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Categories of Force/Fraud/Coercion	Count	Percent (%)
Worked outside the home for little or no wages	238	36.56
Forced to work for someone who is not a member of this household	181	27.80
Forced or made to work to pay for their school fees	145	22.27
Performed work that was not agreed upon (e.g., hired for one type of work, but ended up doing another)	28	4.30
Forced to work to repay a debt with an employer or recruiter	18	2.76
Forced or made to beg for alms	15	2.30
Performed work that was illegal or immoral (such as stealing, prostitution)	12	1.84
Not allowed to leave or contact their parents	5	0.77

Note: Recall that we classify children as victims of child trafficking when children experience any of the following conditions (1) work in hazardous labor sectors (2) experience hazardous labor activities, or (3) are forced, frauded, or coerced to work. The first column presents the force, fraud, and coercion experienced by children and thus classify children as trafficked.

TABLE 8: AGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF CHILDREN WHO WORK EXCESSIVE HOURS

Criteria for Child Labor	Count	Percent of household CL (%)
Child aged 5-11 spends at least 1 hour in economic activity in a given week	180	9.27
Child aged 12-14 spends at least 14 hours in economic activity in a given week	87	4.48
Child aged 15-17 spends at least 43 hours in economic activity in a given week	11	0.57
Total household CL	278	14.32

Note: Recall that children, either in the household or in the network of respondents, are classified as having been involved in child labor if “yes” responses are recorded on the following questions: the child spends at least 1 hour in economic activity in a given week if child is aged 5-11; the child spends at least 14 hours in economic activity in a given week if child is aged 12-14; the child spends at least 43 hours in economic activity in a given week if child is aged 15-17.

The household CL refers to the children in the household working beyond the maximum work hours for their age group. The percentage of household CL is calculated by the number of child labor in the households who worked excessive hours for their age divided by the total number of children aged 5-17 in the sampled households.

There are 278 children, accounting for 14.32% of the household children, classified as having been involved in child labor. Out of these children, 180 children are aged between 5-11, 87 children are aged between 12-14, and 11 children are aged between 15-17.

TABLE 9: CHARACTERISTICS OF CT AND NON-CT CHILDREN IN THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Characteristics	Number of Household Children	# of CT	% of CT	# of Non-CT	% of Non-CT
Total	1942	651	100.00	1291	100.00
Sex					
Male	989	363	55.76	626	48.49
Female	953	288	44.24	665	51.51
Marital status					
Married	1101	239	36.71	862	66.77
Single	804	384	58.99	420	32.53
Separated/Divorced	18	13	2.00	5	0.39
Other	19	15	2.30	4	0.31
Disability status					
Yes	50	15	2.30	35	2.71
No	1892	636	97.70	1256	97.29
Level of education					
Pre-primary	118	17	2.61	101	7.82
primary	1096	345	53.00	751	58.17
JSS	361	166	25.50	195	15.10

SSS	87	57	8.76	30	2.32
None	195	59	9.06	136	10.53
Other	85	7	1.08	78	6.04
Currently enrolled in a formal school					
Yes	1762	578	88.79	1184	91.71
No	180	73	11.21	107	8.29
Enrolled in a Koranic school/madrassa					
Yes	278	168	25.81	110	8.52
No	1664	483	74.19	1181	91.48
Orphan					
Double orphan	197	78	11.98	119	9.22
Single orphan	24	14	2.15	10	0.77
No	1721	559	85.87	1162	90.01
Contribute to the expenses of the household					
Yes	456	298	45.78	158	12.24
No	1486	353	54.22	1133	87.76
Religion					
Christian	53	12	1.84	41	3.18
Muslim	1889	639	98.16	1250	96.82

Age

5~11	1101	239	36.71	862	66.77
12~14	444	181	27.80	263	20.37
15~17	397	231	35.48	166	12.86

Note: the second column is the number of children in the sampled households with the characteristic specified in the same row of the first column (thereafter as the characteristic), the third and fourth columns are the number and proportion of trafficked children (CT) with the characteristic, the fifth and sixth columns are the number and proportion of non-trafficked children (non-CT) with the characteristic.

TABLE 10: CHARACTERISTICS OF CL AND NON-CL CHILDREN IN THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

Characteristics	Number of Household Children	# of CL	% of CL	# of Non-CL	% of Non-CL						
						SSS	87	58	7.46	29	2.49
						None	195	66	8.48	129	11.08
						Other	85	20	2.57	65	5.58
Total	1942	778	100.00	1164	100.00	Currently enrolled in a formal school					
Sex						Yes	1762	695	89.33	1067	91.67
Male	989	417	53.60	572	49.14	No	180	83	10.67	97	8.33
Female	953	361	46.40	592	50.86	Enrolled in a Koranic school/madrassa					
Marital status						Yes	278	183	23.52	95	8.16
Married	1101	334	42.93	767	65.89	No	1664	595	76.48	1069	91.84
Single	804	414	53.21	390	33.51	Orphan					
Separated/Divorced	18	14	1.8	4	.34	Double orphan	197	92	11.83	105	9.02
Other	19	16	2.06	3	.26	Single orphan	24	15	1.93	9	0.77
Disability status						No	1721	671	86.25	1050	90.21
Yes	50	18	2.31	32	2.75	Contribute to the expenses of the household					
No	1892	760	97.69	1132	97.25	Yes	456	318	40.87	138	11.86
Level of education						No	1486	460	59.13	1026	88.14
Pre-primary	118	20	2.57	98	8.42	Religion					
Primary	1096	436	56.04	660	56.70	Protestant /Anglican	53	18	2.31	35	3.01
JSS	361	178	22.88	183	15.72	Catholic	1889	760	97.69	1129	96.99

Age

5~11	1101	334	42.93	767	65.89
12~14	444	211	27.12	233	20.02
15~17	397	233	29.95	164	14.09

FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD CT VICTIMS BY HAZARDOUS LABOR SECTOR

This figure reports the percentage of child trafficking victims who were involved in hazardous labor sectors. 24.3% of the victims were involved in portering, followed by fishing (13.7%) and construction (4.8%). Sex work (0.5%) was the least common sector among child trafficking victims.

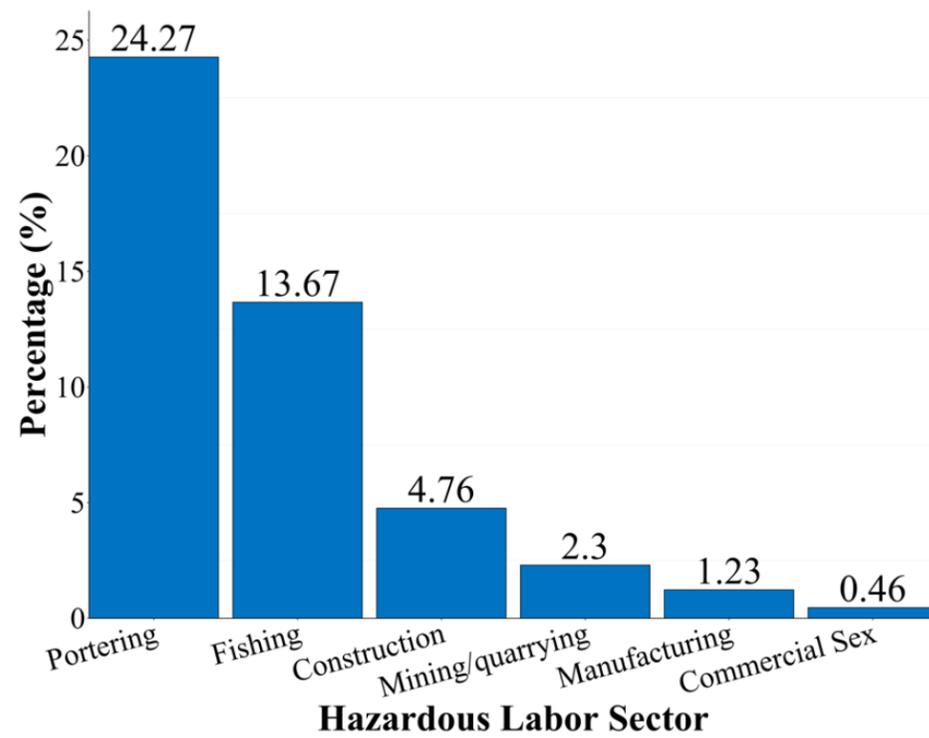


FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD CT VICTIMS BY HAZARDOUS LABOR ACTIVITY

This figure reports the percentage of child trafficking victims who experienced hazardous work conditions. 46.9% of the victims were exposed to extreme cold, heat or humidity, and similarly 46.4% of the victims experienced carrying heavy loads. Exposure to loud noise or vibration (2%) was the least common hazardous work condition experienced by the victims.

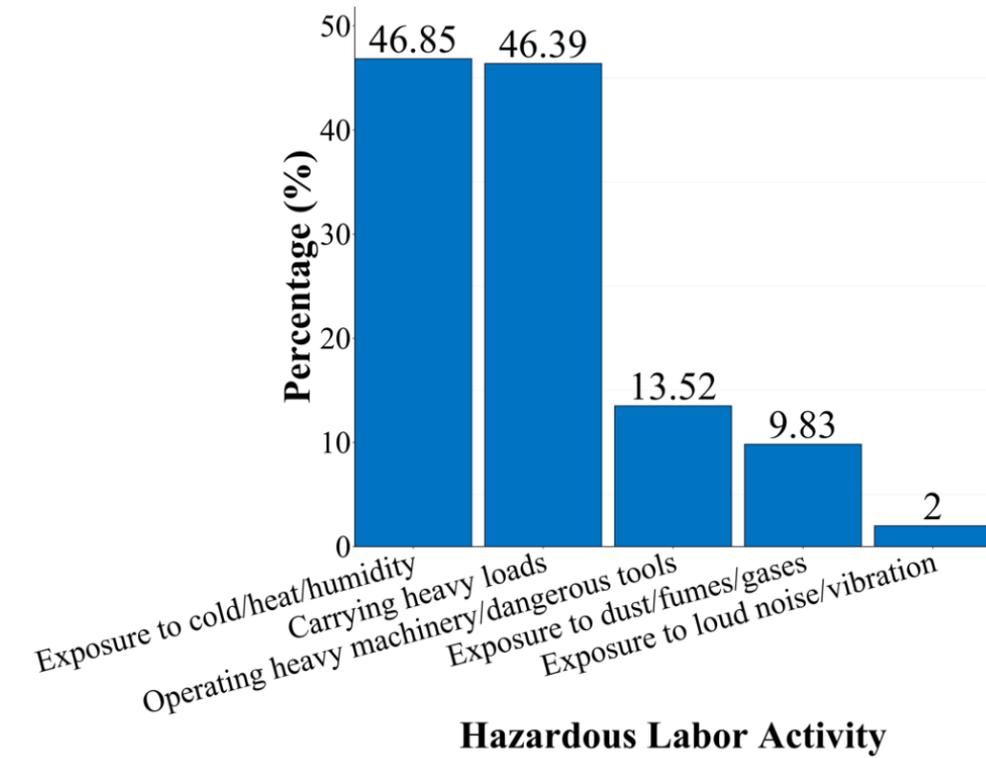


FIGURE 3: PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD CT VICTIMS BY FORCE, FRAUD OR COERCION

This figure reports the percentage of child trafficking victims who experienced force, fraud and/or coercion. 36.6% of the victims worked outside the home for little or no wages. 27.8% of the victims were forced to work for someone who is not a member of their household, and 22.3% of the CT victims were forced or made to work to pay for their school fees. Few victims, however, were not allowed to leave or contact their parents (0.8%).

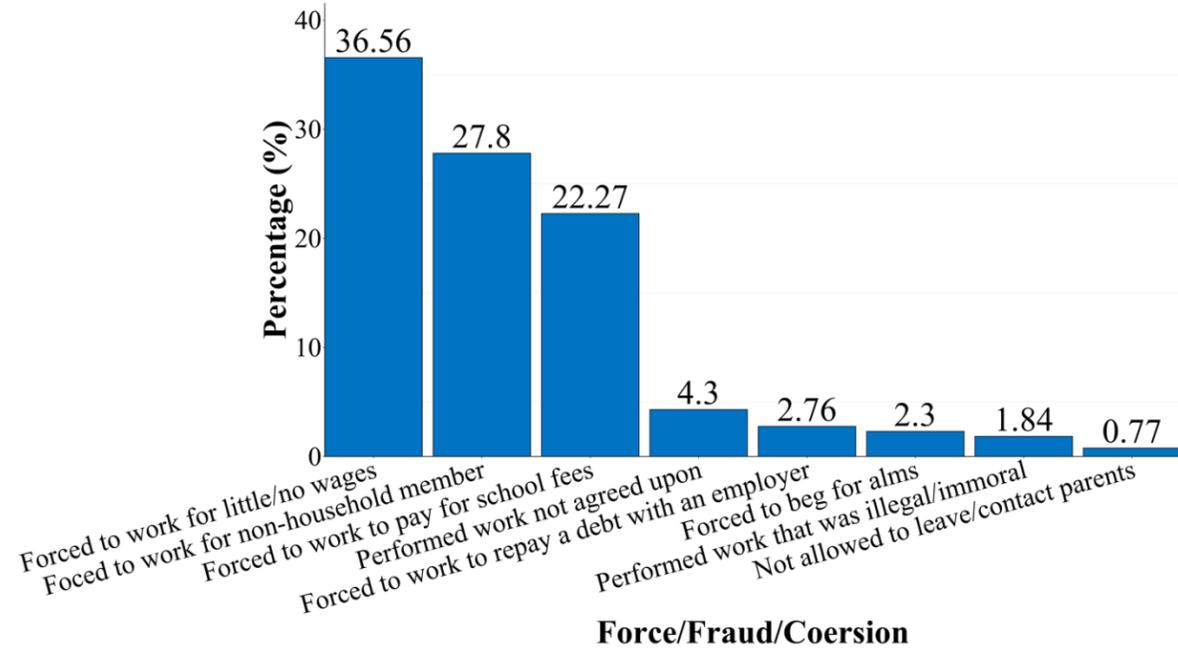


FIGURE 4: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CHILD LABOR, BY AGE GROUP

This figure corresponds to table 8. A total of 278 children, accounting for 14.32% of the children who reside in the sampled household, were classified as having been involved in child labor. Out of these children, 180 children (9.27%) are aged between 5–11, 87 (4.48%) children are aged between 12–14, and 11 children (0.57%) are aged between 15–17.

Note that children are categorized as involved in child labor when they work longer hours than age-specific hour limits for economic activities. Children aged between 5 and 11 are categorized as involved in child labor if they spend at least 1 hour in economic activity in a given week. For those aged between 12 and 14, the limit is 14 hours, and for those aged between 15 and 17, the work hour limit for economic activity is 43 hours.

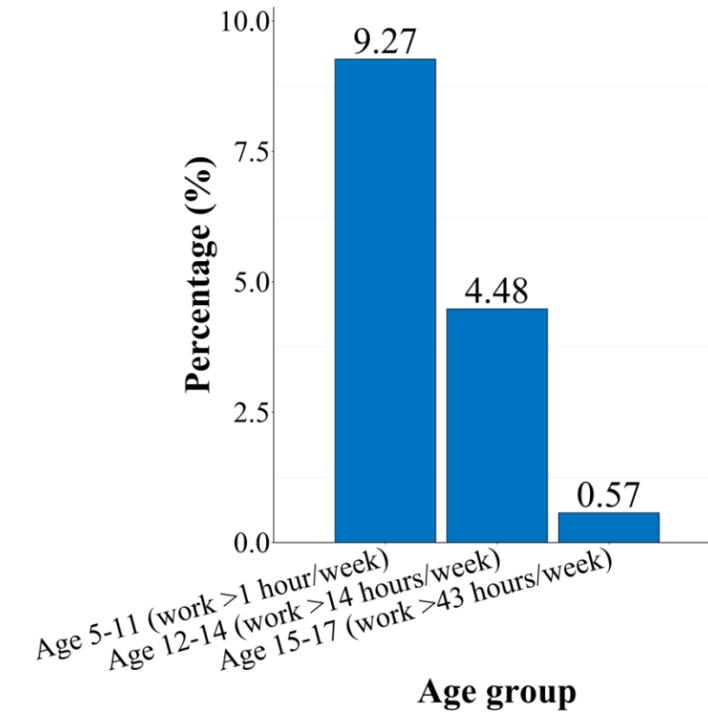


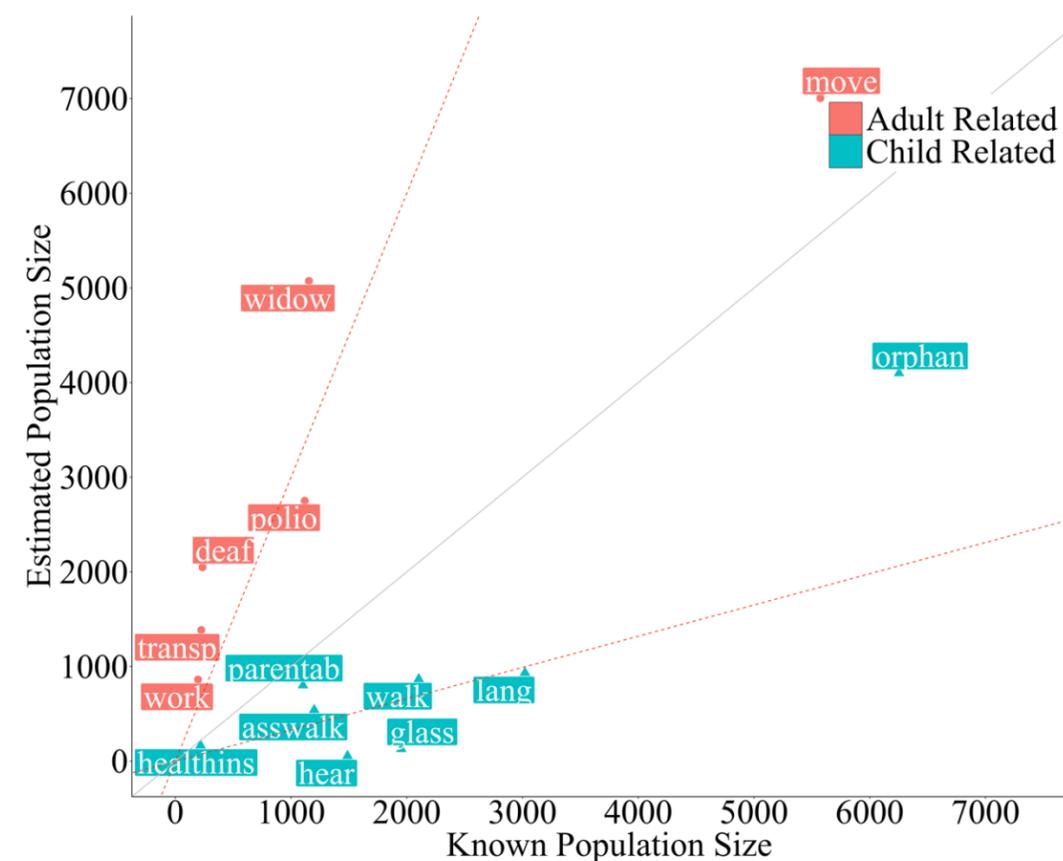
FIGURE 5: VALIDITY CHECK FOR THE REFERENCE SUBPOPULATIONS BASED ON BACK ESTIMATION IN KAMBIA

This figure shows the validity of each reference subpopulation item (survey section E) used to calculate respondents' personal network size, as a part of NSUM estimation. The closer the item is to the fitted line, the higher the validity of the subpopulation item.

The 14 reference subpopulations and their abbreviation are:

- 1) people who moved into [Kambia] from 2010–2015 (move);
- 2) men who are widows (widow);
- 3) people with a disability whose main disability was caused by a transportation accident (transp);
- 4) people with a disability whose main disability was caused by an injury at work (work);
- 5) people with a disability whose main disability was caused by polio (polio);
- 6) people who are completely deaf (deaf);
- 7) children under the age of 18 who are orphans (orphan);
- 8) children under the age of 18 who have at least one parent living abroad (parentab);
- 9) children between the ages of 5 and 17 who have difficulty walking (walk);
- 10) children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are covered by any type of health insurance (healthins);
- 11) children between the ages of 7 and 14 who use the same language at home that is also used by their teachers at school (lang);
- 12) children aged 2–17 who use a hearing aid (hear);
- 13) children aged 2–17 who wear glasses for vision correction (glass);
- 14) and children aged 2–17 who use equipment or receive assistance for walking (asswalk).

The remaining two reference subpopulations were included in the survey but were not used in the NSUM analysis due to the lack of known size from administrative data. They were “women who smoke cigarette,” and “women who graduated from high school.”



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY TOOL

Household Survey Tool – Kambia, Sierra Leone
February 2021

Section A: Identification

Survey ID (Auto generated):	
Survey date: (DD/MM/YY) (Auto generated)	
Start time of interview: (Auto generated)	
Country: (Auto generated)	
Region: (Auto generated)	
District:	
Chiefdom:	
Section	
Enumeration Area Code:	
Name of data collector: (Auto filled from metadata)	
Phone number of data: collector (Auto filled from metadata)	
Name of supervisor:	
(Auto generated)	
Phone number of supervisor:	
(Auto generated)	

Section B1:

A household is made up of people who usually sleep together in the same compound and share meals. Using this definition, list the name of all persons who currently live in the household. Also list the name of each child under the age of 18 who has been a member of the household, according to this definition, in the last five years. This means that the list should include people who have moved away in the last five years but who were under the age of 18 at the time they lived in the household.

Qn 1) How many people currently stay in this Household, including any children under the age of 18 who have been a member in the last five years?

Note: The following set of questions you will be required for fill in details of each one of the members in the HH

2) Record the names of each Household member one by one, beginning with the Household head	3) Gender 1=Male 2=Female	4) Marital status 1= Single 2= Married 3=Separated/Divorced 4 = Widowed 5 = Other (specify)	5) What is this person's relationship to the respondent? 1= Respondent 2= Spouse 3= Son/Daughter 4= Mother/Father 5= Brother/Sister 6=Grandpa/grandma 7=Grandson/granddaughter 8=Other (specify)	6) What is this person's relationship to the household head? 1= Head 2= Spouse 3= Son/Daughter 4= Mother/Father 5= Brother/Sister 6=Grandpa/grandma 7=Grandson/granddaughter 8=Niece / Nephew 9=Uncle/Aunt 10=Other (specify)	7) Age	8) Does this person have a disability? 0= No 1= Yes	9) Level of education completed by last school year of schooling? 0= None 1=Pre-primary 2=Primary 3=JSS 4=SSS 5=University 6= Other (Please Specify)
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10) (ask if age 17 or younger) Currently enrolled in a formal school? 0= no 1= yes	11) Is child enrolled in a Koranic school/madrassa?	12) (ask if age 17 or younger) Orphan? 0= No 1= Single orphan 2= Double orphan	13) Does this person contribute to the expenses of the household? 0= no 1= yes	14) What is this person's religion? 1=Protestant / Anglican 2=Catholic 3=Moslem 4=Seventh Day Adventist 5=Saved/Pentecostal 6=None 7=Other specify	15) Does the person currently live in the home? 0= no (go Q15) 1= yes (go to Section B2)	16) How long ago did the person leave the home?	17) Why did the person leave the home? (check all that apply) a. marriage b. death c. migration d. work e. school f. other (specify) 0= no 1= yes	18) (ask if age 17 or younger when left home) Who did the child go to live with? 1= biological parent(s) 2= relative or extended family member 3= someone who is not a relative but who is known to the family (family friend/acquaintance) 4= someone who at the time was a complete stranger to the family 5= Other (specify)
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19) (ask if age 17 or younger when left home) Did the child leave here in order to work as a domestic servant (e.g., Menpikin) for another family/household? 0= no 1= yes	20) (ask if age 17 or younger when left home) Was the child sent away from home to learn some trade or skill? 0= no 1= yes	21) (ask if age 17 or younger when left home) During the time away from home, was the child not allowed to contact his or her family or otherwise cut off from family contact by his or her employer? 0= no 1= yes	22) (ask if age 17 or younger when left home) During the time away from home, is/was the child staying in very bad living conditions, such as having little access to food, clean water, or sanitation? 0= no 1= yes
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Section B2:

Complete this section for each person aged 5-17 in the household roster (as recorded in Section B1- Q6) [SKIP TO section C if no child between 5-17 years of age]

1	(ask if B1-Q10 = no) You said earlier that [name of child] is not attending a formal school. Why is [name of the child] not attending a formal school? (record response for each item) a. No money to pay for his/her education b. Needs to be working for household/family c. Needs to be working to earn money for family/household d. Married/Pregnancy e. Abuse/Violence/Bullying f. No school nearby/No Admission/No Teacher g. Attending vocational school h. Sickness i. Refused to go to school j. Other (specify)_____	0. No 1. Yes
2	Has..... [name of the child] worked as a Menpikin in the last year?	0. No 1. Yes
3	Has..... [name of the child] been involved in any of the following sectors/ type of work in the last year? (record response for each item) a. domestic work b. mining/quarrying c. agricultural work d. trading/vending activities e. fishing f. portering (carrying heavy objects) g. sex work (selling or giving any type of sexual service) h. begging i. motorcycle taxi driving j. manufacturing k. working in workshops (e.g., crafts, mechanics) l. construction m. worked as a Menpikin n. Koranic school o. None [If none skip to section B3] p. Other (specify)	0. No 1. Yes 99. Do not know

4	Has [name of the child]) performed work away from the home in the last year that involved any of the following: (record response for each item) a. carrying heavy loads b. using dangerous tools or operating heavy machinery c. exposure to dust/fumes/gas d. exposure to extreme cold/heat/humidity e. exposure to loud noise or vibration f. none g. Other specify_____	0. No 1. Yes
	If yes to "Carrying heavy loads," then: Out of every 10 people that you know, how many of these people know that [NAME OF CHILD] has performed work away from the home in the last year that involves carrying heavy loads?	
	If yes to "Exposure to extreme cold/heat/humidity," then: Out of every 10 people that you know, how many of these people know that [NAME OF CHILD] has performed work away from the home in the last year that involves exposure to extreme cold/heat/humidity?	
5	Who has [name of child] been working for in the last year? (record response for each item) a. Own/Self b. Family/Household c. Extended Family/Relative d. Working for a company e. Stranger f. No one g. Other (Specify)_____ h. Do not know	0. No 1. Yes
6	Approximately how many hours of work did [name of child] perform outside the home in the last 7 days? Record '99' for Do not know/refused to answer	# Hours _____
7	Was the number of hours worked outside the home in the last 7 days typical for [name of child]?	1. yes 2. no, usually works more hours 3. no, usually works fewer hours 99. Do not know

8	On a scale of 1 to 10, how certain are you about the number of hours you've reported? Where 1 represents being not certain at all and 10 being completely certain.	_____
9	Approximately how many hours of work did [name of child] perform inside the home in the last 7 days? This includes cooking, child care, getting water, and other household maintenance tasks Record '99' for Do not know/refused to answer	#Hours _____
10	Was the number of hours worked inside the home in the last 7 days typical for this person?	1. yes 2. no, usually works more hours 3. no, usually works fewer hours
11	On a scale of 1 to 10, how certain are you about the number of hours you've reported? Where 1 represents being not certain at all and 10 being completely certain.	_____

Section B3:

Complete this section for child aged 5-17 listed in the household roster. Questions refer to activities in the past year.

<p>Next, we are going to ask you some further questions about each child listed on the household roster. Please check all that apply. At any time in the past year:</p> <p>1. [name of the child] was forced to work for someone who is not a member of this household</p> <p>If yes, then:</p> <p>Out of every 10 people that you know, how many of these people know that [NAME OF CHILD] was forced to work for someone who is not a member of this household?</p> <p>2. [name of the child] was forced to work to repay a debt with an employer or recruiter</p> <p>3. [name of the child] worked outside the home for little or no wages</p> <p>If yes, then:</p> <p>Out of every 10 people that you know, how many of these people know that [NAME OF CHILD] worked outside the home for little or no wages?</p> <p>4. [name of the child] performed work that was not agreed upon (e.g., hired for one type of work, but ended up doing another)</p> <p>5. [name of the child] was forced or made to beg for alms</p> <p>6. [name of the child] performed work that was illegal or immoral (such as stealing, prostitution)</p> <p>7. [name of the child] was forced or made to work to pay for their school fees</p> <p>8. (ask if living away from the household in Section B1 Question 2) [name of the child] was not allowed to leave or contact their parents</p>	<p>0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know</p>
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Section C:

Instructions for Interviewer: Please note that this section requires you to record observational data where indicated. You will not ask the respondents these questions unless necessary or otherwise indicated.

1	How many dwelling rooms does this household have? [MAY NEED TO ASK RESPONDENT]	Write in answer: _____
2	What is the main flooring material of the dwelling house?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earth, sand 2. Dung 3. Wood/Planks 4. Palm/Bamboo 5. Parquet or Polished Wood 6. Vinyl or Asphalt Strips 7. Ceramic Tiles 8. Cement 9. Carpet 10. Other (Specify): _____
3	What is the main construction material of the exterior walls of the dwelling house?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Walls 2. Cane/Palm/Trunks 3. Dirt 4. Bamboo with Mud 5. Stone with Mud 6. Uncovered Adobe 7. Metallic Sheets 8. Plywood 9. Cardboard 10. Reused Wood 11. Cement 12. Stone with Lime/Cement 13. Bricks 14. Cement Blocks 15. Covered Adobe 16. Wood Planks/Shingles 17. Other (Specify): _____
4.	What is the main construction material of the roof of the dwelling house?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Roof 2. Cane/Palm/Trunks 3. Dirt 4. Bamboo with Mud 5. Stone with Mud 6. Uncovered Adobe 7. Metallic Sheets 8. Plywood 9. Cardboard 10. Reused Wood 11. Cement 12. Stone with Lime/Cement 13. Bricks 14. Cement Blocks 15. Covered Adobe 16. Wood Planks/Shingles 17. Other (Specify): _____
86		

5a	What type of toilet is used by the household?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system 2. Flush/pour flush to septic tank 3. Flush/pour to pit latrine 4. Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine 5. Pit Latrine with slab 6. Composting Toilet 7. Bush
5b	Do you share this toilet with at least one other household?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Facility (These are facilities that would be considered improved if they were not shared by two or more households) 2. Not shared
6	What is the main source of lighting for the dwelling?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electric lights 2. Kerosene or gas lamps 3. Candles or torch light 4. Generator 5. Other (Specify): _____
7	Where is the place for cooking located?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the house 2. In a separate building apart from the house 3. Outdoors 4. No food cooked in the household 5. Other (Specify): _____
8	What is the main source of drinking water for the household?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public tap 2. Dug well 3. Natural Spring 4. Rainwater 5. Bottled Water 6. River/Stream 7. Other (Specify): _____
9	What is the main fuel used by the household for cooking?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electricity 2. LPG/natural gas/biogas 3. Kerosene 4. Coal/lignite 5. Charcoal 6. Wood 7. Straw/Shrub/grass 8. Agricultural crop 9. No food cooked in household 10. Other (Specify): _____
10	For Interviewer: Be sure to ask for each household amenity separately Does your household have the following. Indicate yes, if your household has the item and it is functional:	0 = No 1 = Yes
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Electricity b. Radio c. Television d. Mobile Telephone e. Non-Mobile Telephone f. Refrigerator g. Electric Iron h. Computer i. Power Generator j. Wardrobe 	

SECTION D:

The following questions ask about your perceptions of how well your family is doing.

Instructions for Interviewer: Please be sure to read out all of the possible answer choices to the respondent for the following questions.

1	By Kambia standards, your household is really well off.	1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree
2	Your household finds it difficult to live on its current income.	1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree
3	Generally, there is enough food for all the people in this household.	1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree
4	Generally, there is enough money for school fees to send every child in the household to school.	1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree
5	Generally, there is enough money to supply clothing for everyone in the household.	1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree
6	Generally, there is enough money to buy medicine for everyone in the household.	1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

Section E:

Note for Interviewer: Please read the following to the respondent to inform them how to think about “knowing” someone.

We are now going to ask you some general questions about people you know. In this context, “people you know” are:

People of all ages living in Kambia, (this can be family members, friends, children in the community, co-workers, neighbors, etc.), who.....
 you know by sight and by name,
 who also know you by sight and by name,
 and with whom you have communicated in the past 2 years. This could be in-person, by text, email, phone call, or through social media.

w
 In thinking about a child under the age of 18, you would “know” the child if you know either the child or at least one of the parents/guardians by this definition.

We want to give you some examples to help you in answering this question. Let’s say we ask you how many primary school teachers you currently know who live in this [DISTRICT], and 3 primary school teachers come to your mind – Mr. Kargbo, Mrs. Sesay and Mr. Koroma

- Mr. Kargbo
 He is your sister-in-law’s father, and you met him through your sister-in-law.
 ✓ You know him by face and name

 If he saw you today, he would recognize you
 ✓ He knows you by face and name

 You talked to him at a wedding six months ago
 ✓ You have communicated with him in the last 2 years.

You have three checks, so for the purposes of this survey, you DO currently know Mr. Kargbo

- Mrs. Sesay
 She is your cousin’s friend, and your cousin introduced you to her.
 ✓ You know her by face and name

 If she saw you today, she would recognize you.
 ✓ She knows you by face and name

A friend of yours told you that had a child a couple of years.
 X You have not communicated with her in the last 2 years (for example, in-person, by phone call, text, or social media)

You only have 2 checks, so for the purposes of this survey, you DO NOT currently know her.

- Mr. Koroma
 He’s your son’s friend from school. Your son introduced him to you years ago, but you don’t remember him very well.
 X You do not know him by face and name

But if he saw you today, he would recognize you because your son has shared your photo on social media.

✓ He knows you by face and name

You haven't seen or communicated with him since he moved away 3 years ago

X You have not communicated with him in the last 2 years (for example, in-person, by phone call, text, or social media)

You only have 1 check, so for the purposes of this survey, you DO NOT currently know him.

You would report currently knowing one primary school teacher who lives in this [DISTRICT]: Mr. Kargbo

REMEMBER: WE ARE ONLY ASKING YOU ABOUT PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN KAMBIA DISTRICT.

Use this definition in answering the following questions:

1	How many people do you know who moved into Kambia from 2010-2015?	Write in response:_____
2	How many men do you know who are widows?	Write in response:_____
3	How many people with a disability do you know whose main disability was caused by a transportation accident?	Write in response:_____
4	How many people with a disability do you know whose main disability was caused by an injury at work?	Write in response:_____
5	How many people with a disability do you know whose main disability was caused by polio?	Write in response:_____
6	How many people do you know who are completely deaf?	Write in response:_____
7	How many women do you know who smoke cigarettes?	Write in response:_____
8	How many women in Kambia do you who gave birth in the last year (12 months)?	Write in response:_____
9	How many children do you know under the age of 18 who are orphans (both parents are dead)?	Write in response:_____
10	How many children do you know under the age of 18 who have at least one parent living abroad?	Write in response:_____
11	How many children do you know between the ages of 5 and 17 who have difficulty walking?	Write in response:_____
12	How many children do you know between the ages of 5 and 17 who are covered by any type of health insurance?	Write in response:_____
13	How many children do you know between the ages of 7 and 14 who use the same language at home that is also used by their teachers at school?	Write in response:_____
14	How many children do you know aged 2-17 who use a hearing aid ?	Write in response:_____
15	How many children do you know aged 2-17 who wear glasses for vision correction?	Write in response:_____

16	How many children do you know aged 2-17 who use equipment or receive assistance for walking?	Write in response:_____
<p>We are also interested in how well people that you know also know you.</p> <p><i>To answer the questions below, please keep in mind the same definition of “knowing” from the last set of questions: People of all ages in living in Kambia, (this can be family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.), who.....</i></p> <p><i>....you know by sight and by name,</i></p> <p><i>... who also know you by sight and by name,</i></p> <p><i>... and with whom you have communicated in the past 2 years. This could be in-person, by text, email, phone call, or through social media</i></p>		
17	Out of every 10 people that you know, how many people would you estimate know your level of education?	1) 1 2) 2 3) 3 4) 4 5) 5 6) 6 7) 7 8) 8 9) 9 10) 10
18	Out of every 10 people that you know, what percentage of these people know your tribe?	1) 1 2) 2 3) 3 4) 4 5) 5 6) 6 7) 7 8) 8 9) 9 10) 10
19	Out of every 10 people that you know, what percentage of these people know your occupation?	1) 1 2) 2 3) 3 4) 4 5) 5 6) 6 7) 7 8) 8 9) 9 10) 10

20	Out of every 10 people that you know, what percentage of these people know whether or not you smoke cigarettes?	1) 1 2) 2 3) 3 4) 4 5) 5 6) 6 7) 7 8) 8 9) 9 10) 10
21	Out of every 10 people that you know, what percentage of these people know your religion?	1) 1 2) 2 3) 3 4) 4 5) 5 6) 6 7) 7 8) 8 9) 9 10) 10

Section F:

For this set of questions we want to ask you about children aged 5-17 that you know in Kambia. For these questions, use the same definition of “knowing” as before, but also include the parents. You “know” a child if you

*.... know the child or at least one of the child’s parents by sight and by name,
... either the parent or the child also knows you by sight and by name,
... and you have communicated with either the parent or the child in the past 2 years.
This could be in-person, by text, email, phone call, or through social media.*

1	How many children in Kambia do you know of that worked outside the home within the last year OR were living away from their parents, with or without the facilitation of an intermediary? **Ask respondent for the name of each child. Children’s names will be listed on a form similar to the household roster in Section B1, and the questions below will be asked about each child listed in this section ***	Number of children _____
---	--	-----------------------------

Interviewer: Ask the questions in this section for all children identified in the above roster. Be sure to limit to only children aged 5-17.

2.	Is the child currently working outside the home?	0. No (go to Q2) 1. Yes (go to Q3) 2. Do not know
3.	Has the child worked outside the home in the last year?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
4.	How old is this child?	Record age in complete years
5.	Gender of child	1. Male 2. Female 3. Non-binary
6.	Ethnicity of child (or language group, as appropriate)	_____
7.	Religion of the child	1. Christian 2. Muslim 3. Tribal religion 4. Other: _____ 5. Do not know
8.	Is the child a Sierra Leonean national?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
9.	Does the child have a history of going missing or is frequently away from home?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know

10.	Was the child adopted under suspicious circumstances?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
11.	Does the child regularly attend school?	1. Never 2. Sometimes 3. Always 4. Don't know
12.	Does the child have a disability?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
13.	Are the child's biological parents alive?	1. Both parents alive (go to Q13) 2. Lost one parent (go to Q13) 3. Lost both parents (go to Q14) 4. Do not know
14.	Has the child lived apart from their biological parent(s) anytime in the last year?	0. No (go to Q19) 1. Yes (go to Q15) 2. Do not know
15.	Has the child lived apart from their official guardian anytime in the last year?	0. No (go to Q19) 1. Yes (go to Q16) 2. Do not know
16.	During the time away from home, is/was the child staying in very bad living conditions (e.g. little access to food, clean water, sanitation)?	1. Never 2. Sometimes 3. Always 4. Do not know
17.	During the time away from home, was the child not allowed to contact his or her family or was otherwise cut off from family contact by his or her employer?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
18.	Was the child sent away from home to learn some trade or skill?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
19.	Highest level of education of the child at the time they begin working outside the home or began living away from parents/guardians.	0. None 1. Pre-primary 2. Lower Primary (Class 1 – Class 3) 3. Upper Primary (Class 4 – Class 6) 4. JSS 5. SSS 6. Tertiary 7. Other (Please Specify) 8. Do not know
20.	In the last year, as the child worked as a menpikin?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know

21.	In the last year, has the child been involved in any of the following types of work? (check all that apply) a. domestic work for another household b. mining/quarrying c. agricultural work d. trading/vending activities e. fishing f. portering (carrying heavy objects) g. sex work (selling or giving any type of sexual service) h. begging i. motorcycle taxi driving j. manufacturing k. working in workshops (e.g., crafts, mechanics) l. construction m. Other (specify)	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
22. In answering the following questions, please think about things that have happened to the child in the last year.		
In the last year, has the child:		
a.	...performed work that involves carrying heavy loads?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
b.	... operated heavy machinery or worked with dangerous tools?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
c.	...performed work that exposes him/her to dust, fumes, or gases?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
d.	....performed work that exposes him/her to extreme cold, heat, or humidity?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
e.	....performed work that exposes him/her to loud noise or vibration?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
f.	.... been forced or induced to commit illicit/criminal activities/petty crime?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
g.	.... been forced or induced to work to work for someone?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know

h.	..... been forced or induced to work to repay a debt owed by someone else?	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
23.	If child is under the age of 12 years: (Record response for each item) a. The child spends 1 hour or more in economic activity in a given week b. The child spends 28 or more hours in domestic activity in a given week	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
24.	If child is aged 12 to 14 years: (Record response for each item) a. The child spends 14 or more hours in economic activity in a given week b. The child spends 42 or more hours combined in domestic activity and/or economic activity in a given week	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know
25.	If child is aged 15-17 years: The child spends at 43 hours or more in economic activity in a given week	0. No 1. Yes 2. Do not know

SECTION G:

In the following questions, rate (on a scale of 1 to 5) the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on:

1.	The welfare of families in your community	1. Very positive impact 2. Positive impact 3. Neutral 4. Negative impact 5. Very negative impact
2.	The welfare of children in your community	1. Very positive impact 2. Positive impact 3. Neutral 4. Negative impact 5. Very negative impact
3.	Exploitation of children	1. Very positive impact 2. Positive impact 3. Neutral 4. Negative impact 5. Very negative impact
4.	Access to essential social services (healthcare, child protection, litigation, etc.)	1. Very positive impact 2. Positive impact 3. Neutral 4. Negative impact 5. Very negative impact
	END TIME OF INTERVIEW (Auto generated)	_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Questionnaire result

Record the result of the questionnaire/interview

- 1) Complete interview
- 2) Incomplete interview
- 3) Eligible Respondent Not at Home
- 3) Partly completed
- 4) This questionnaire was for Household replacement
- 5) Respondent got traumatized/distressed during the interview.
- 6) Refused

Interview evaluation questions

When conducting this interview, was there any:

- a. Environmental interference
 - i. Weather
 - ii. Household environment
 - iii. Other (specify)
 - iv. None
 - v. Not applicable
- b. Unanticipated household event
 - i. A person lurking
 - ii. Angered household member
 - iii. Other (specify)
 - iv. None
 - v. Not applicable
- c. Political activity/interference during the process of administering the interview
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - iii. Not applicable
- d. Interviewer Observation throughout the process of administering the interview
 - i. Appearance/mental status
 - ii. Difficult question
 - iii. Other (specify)
 - iv. None
 - v. Not applicable

APPENDIX B: QUALITATIVE TOOLS SAMPLE

Interview Guide 1: Key Informant Interview Guide

Government and NGO officials

Thank you for agreeing to speak with us. We'd like to begin by asking a bit of background information.

Objectives:

- Explore the status of efforts, including interventions and policies for prevention, protection, and prosecution against child trafficking at a country level, as well as identify the contribution of the different stakeholders in this field
- Capture perceptions, mechanisms, and manifestations of child trafficking
- Understand the practices and bottlenecks that perpetuate child trafficking in the country

1. Tell me about yourself, your organisation/government department, and your role in child protection?
 - Probe for: Specific role of your office in combating internal child trafficking.
 - Probe for: Any specific age group that this organisation focuses on (e.g. adolescents).
 - Probe for: How many personnel at the organisation/department are assigned to work on child trafficking and related roles? What proportion (and or number) are full-time staff?
 - Probe for: What are the forms/types of internal child trafficking handled by your department/organisation?
2. What is your organisation's/department's understanding of child trafficking?
 - Probe for: Challenges faced by your organisation/department in fighting child trafficking.
 - Probe for: What are the top three priorities for this organisation/department in child protection?
 - ONLY FOR NGOS-Probe for: What is your organization's philosophy and approach in service provision?
 - Probe for: How are cases of child trafficking managed (referral mechanisms, re-integration and additional services offered)?
 - Probe for: What preventative measures (sensitization, among others) are done in vulnerable communities or populations?
 - Probe for: How do you identify and track the number of victims served and the services provided to the trafficked victims?
3. What are the most commonly occurring forms of internal child trafficking in this country?
 - Probe for: What are the most common sectors where children are trafficked (e.g. agriculture, mining, fishing, etc.)?
 - o Probe for Each Sector: What are the working conditions of the trafficked children?
 - Probe for: What forms of trafficking that boys are mainly involved in?
 - Probe for: What forms of trafficking that girls are mainly involved in?
4. What other organizations/departments are involved in combatting internal child trafficking?
 - Probe for: The roles and capacities of the different bodies involved, including government bodies.
 - Probe for: How do organizations/departments work together or partner, if at all?
 - Probe for: Nature of coordination of effort and activities of the various Child Protection agencies geared toward addressing internal child trafficking problem in the country.
 - Probe for: From your perspective, how adequate are the support services for prevention of trafficking?
5. How does the process of internal child trafficking usually occur in this country?
 - Probe for: Most common regions/hotspots of origin and destination for trafficking and why?

- Probe for: Common tactics used for recruitment of children?
- Probe for: Who are in the recruitment networks for the children?
- Probe for: Common modes of transport used and the different places of origin and destinations for internal (in-country) trafficking.
- Probe for: Actions undertaken to address trafficking activities at known recruitment, transit and destination sites.

6. What are the causes/facilitators of child trafficking in your country?

- Probe for: What are specific factors that place populations at risk for trafficking (structural/system)?
- Probe for: What are factors that enable perpetrators to get away with trafficking (structural/system)?
- Probe for: Are there cultural practices or attitudes that facilitate and sustain child trafficking?
- Probe for: How does child trafficking go unnoticed by many people?
- Probe for: Gaps and barriers in response that facilitate and sustain child trafficking (related to protection, prevention and prosecution) at national, institutional and community-level.

7. Can you tell me about specific laws, policies, or guidelines in your country that are meant to protect children against trafficking, either directly or indirectly?

- Probe for: What is your opinion on the laws, policies, and guidelines currently in place to reduce the practice of internal child trafficking and the implementation of them?
- Probe for: How do local governments/chiefdoms and community Child Protection structures such as Child Welfare Committee (CWC), play a role in the prevention of child trafficking?
- Probe for: Are there trainings provided on human trafficking (categories of identification, protection, prosecution, or prevention)? If so, who provides the training?
- Probe for: Are there existing transit centres to receive children who are rescued?
- Probe for: What are the entities involved in prosecution of traffickers?
- Probe for: Opinion about the effectiveness of the prosecution efforts.

8. What are the future plans to address internal child trafficking?

- Probe for: Short-term and long-term plans from the perspective of the organisation and the government.
- Probe for: Future plans related to bills being formulated, reviewed, tabled and planned activities.
- Probe for: Future plans related to systems for implementation of policies and enforcement of laws to prevent and mitigate human trafficking and child trafficking and their effectiveness.
- Probe for: Challenges that may hinder these plans.

9. What recommendations would you give to address internal child trafficking?

Additional questions for the key informants at the shelters

1. Describe the processes of how the victims of internal child trafficking come to this shelter?

2. What services are provided at this shelter to the children?

- Probe for: Point at which the children leave this shelter?
- Probe for: What is the typical length of time that support is provided to the victims and/or their families?
- Probe for: Challenges the Facility is faced with and any measures being taken to mitigate the challenges.
- Probe for: Any monitoring of impact (short and long-term) of the support given?
- Probe for Specific approaches they use in services or ask about rules/regulations/guidelines for survivors living there.

3. In your opinion, how does child trafficking affect the wellbeing of child victims/their families and the communities?

4. Based on the current situation, what would you recommend government to put in place or implement to mitigate internal child trafficking?

Thank you for taking off time to be part of this interview.

Interview Guide 2: FGDs with Community Members

SCRIPT:

Thanks for agreeing to speak with us. We'd like to begin by introducing ourselves.

Objectives (For the modulator):

- Community perceptions on human trafficking
- Community perceptions of the mechanisms, manifestations of child trafficking
- Understand the cultural practices that perpetuate child trafficking

TIPS: ** If the question has been answered fully and completely there is no need to repeat it, unless for clarity.

We are here to discuss how children are treated when working inside and outside the home.

Vignette 1:

Sadi is a 9 year old girl staying with her single mother and her uncle Bondi. One morning, two men come to their home and they engage in an intense conversation with her mother for about 30 minutes. The men then gave her mother something that looked like money. Sadi has never seen these men but her uncle knows what they do and he believes many locals know this too. After their conversation, Sadi was asked to pack her bag immediately. Her mother told her she had no money to pay for her school fees and that they were taking her to study from the city. The men took Sadi to the bus park where she was handed over to another man who accompanied her. Upon arrival in the city, Sadi never joined any school but was taken to work for a well-to-do family in the suburbs. She works every day from 5.00am to mid-night without any rest. She cleans the house and compound, washes clothes, cooks, and looks after four children, two of whom are older than her. Since coming to the city, Sadi has never communicated with her mother. She is forbidden from making phone calls. She tried to escape one day but her employers beat her severely and warned her never to go more than 100 metres away from the house. Despite working for close to a year now, she has never received any pay. Her employers scold her every day for being lazy, yet she feels she works her heart out. Sometimes she is denied the food she has prepared herself.

1.1. Do you think what is happening in this scenario is morally correct? Why or why not?

1.2. Does this scenario describe something that commonly occurs in this community? If so, in what ways does this occur?

1.3. Does this scenario describe forced labour or child trafficking?

1.4. Tell me about similar challenges/problems faced by children and young people (6-17 years) in your community.

- Probe for: Family, cultural and social related challenges.
- Probe for: Challenges specific to boys.
- Probe for: Challenges specific to girls.

1.5. What are the causes of scenarios such as the one described in above?

- Probe for: Cultural factors.
- Probe for: Economic factors.
- Probe for: Social factors.

1.6. Are there cases in your community where children (6-17 years) have been exploited, harboured or moved from their homes to other place(s)?

- Probe for: Why they are exploited?
- Probe for: Do parents know about this or gave consent?
- Probe for: Where they go to work/exploited (the destinations)?
- Probe for: Type of exploitation these children are usually exposed to.
- Probe for: Specific seasons/high-peak seasons when these children are recruited.
- Probe for: Whether the recruiters are commonly known to the family members or community?

1.7. How are cases, like these, of child trafficking being handled in your community when identified?

- Probe for: Who is notified when a child is identified?
- Probe for: What happens once these authorities/persons have been notified?

1.8. How has child trafficking impacted your community?

- Probe for: How has it affected your community?
- Probe for: The effects on the children (victims) and their families.

1.9. In what ways has your community tried to address the issues described above?

Vignette 2:

Modo is a 14 year old boy while Meme, his sister is 10. Their father is a farmer. One morning as the two children prepare to go to school, their father tells them they were not going anywhere. He says that they have to work to eat and that it has become impossible for him to meet his agricultural production goals and business goals without them working. He tells the children that they are a useless lazy lot, yet they are the ones 'eating' all his money and therefore they have to work for it. From that day on, the children work from 6am to 6pm. The girl works in the field, preparing the ground for planting, sowing seed, weeding, harvesting the crop and manually threshing and winnowing the maize. The boy works in a local stone quarry hitting rocks to make gravel which his father sells. They go to school only once or twice a week, mainly in the off-season, and even then, they often arrive very late after doing some work. Every day, they are very exhausted yet their living conditions do not seem to improve. To their father, working to make money is more important than going to school – the difference is he never participates in the work himself.

1.1 Do you think what is happening in this scenario is morally acceptable? Why?

1.2 Does this scenario describe something that commonly occurs here? If so, in what ways does this occur?

1.3 What are the causes of scenarios such as the one described in above?

- Probe for: Cultural factors.
- Probe for: Economic factors.
- Probe for: Social factors.

1.4 In what ways has your community tried to address the issues described above?

Vignette 3:

Dula and Pato are sister and brother aged 15 and 8 respectively. They regularly go to a public day Secondary School and Primary School respectively under a free government education scheme. Before leaving for school every morning, their parents require them to clean up the house together with the rest of the family members, to make their beds and to tidy their sleeping room. In the evening after returning from school, they first do their 'school take-home assignments' then rest for an hour. After the rest, they are required to participate in preparing the dinner and other chores – either by tending to the food on the fire, washing the dishes, fetching fire wood/water or bathing their infant siblings. The children feel that the work is too much for them and are always protesting to their parents. But other members of the family regularly do their share and the work is apportioned based on age/ability. Their mother always tells them that there is no well-groomed child who does not help out on house chores as long as the chores do not affect their studies.

1.1 Do you think what is happening in this scenario is morally acceptable? Why?

1.2 Does this scenario describe something that commonly occurs here? If so, in what ways does this occur?

General discussion questions

Given the discussions above:

1. Describe the expectations that adults have when it comes to children helping to work inside and outside the home.

- Probe for: How many hours do they work for their families?

- Probe for: How often do they work for their families?
2. What are your community's thoughts on children being overworked or exploited when working outside the home?
 - Probe for: Prevention of trafficking.
 - Probe for: Management of child trafficking victims (rehabilitation and protection of victims).
 - Probe for: Prosecution and judicial system.
 3. What would be your recommendations to reduce cases of child trafficking and other forms of exploitation of children in your area?
 - Probe for: Prevention of trafficking.
 - Probe for: Management of child trafficking victims (rehabilitation and protection of victims).
 - Probe for: Prosecution and judicial system.

Thank you for taking off time to be part of this interview.

Interview Guide 3: In-Depth Interviews with Survivors

Thanks for agreeing to speak with us. We'd like to begin by asking a bit of background information. Kindly speak to us as much as you feel comfortable.

Objectives of the tool:

- Experiences prior that may have been drivers of vulnerability
- Understand manifestations and mechanisms of child trafficking including the set-up, linkages, and transactions involved
- To understand the nature/phenomenon of the trafficking experiences
- Experiences of survivors leading to their discovery (services, referral, re-integration)
- Barriers to successful re-integration of survivors from their perspective
- Experiences with prosecution

NOTE: For survivors that have been trafficked more than once, these questions should be asked for each trafficking cycle.

1. Tell us your story (before, during and after)
 - Probe for: Age at the time it happened.
 - Probe for: Schooling status before and after.
2. What led to this trafficking experience?
 - Probe for: Individual experiences.
 - Probe for: Family experiences.
 - Probe for: Community related or other issues.
3. Where did this trafficking experience take place AND how?
4. Tell me more about the kind of people who are involved (don't tell us their names)?
 - Probe for: Were you related to them in any way?
5. What did they do to keep you there?
6. What do you wish would have been done to prevent this trafficking experience from happening?
7. What were your immediate needs during this experience?
 - Probe for: Were there any challenges (including financial, or otherwise) that the family had to deal with during the trafficking process?

8. How did you cope during the trafficking period?
9. How have you kept in touch with the agency/people that recruited you into trafficking?
 - Probe for: How did they communicate with you?
 - Probe for: Whether the survivor kept in touch with their families during the period of trafficking.
10. When did this trafficking experience stop and how?
 - Probe for: Other people in similar situations who are still there.
 - Probe for: How was help available?
11. What were your immediate needs after having come out of this experience?
 - Probe for: How did you cope after the trafficking period?
12. Tell us about the help you needed, received, and from whom?
13. If you have since been supported, what did you like and dislike about the help you received?
14. What challenges do you encounter now being back?
15. What recommendations would you give to individuals that have faced child trafficking?
16. Is there anything more about this experience you want to tell us?

Thank you for taking off time to be part of this interview.

APPENDIX C: PREPARATION AND PLANNING BY CMDA-SL

CMDA-SL completed the following activities and tasks in preparation for the quantitative field data collection:

- Submission of request to the Office of the Sierra Leone Ethics and Scientific Review Committee (SLECRC) for which an approval was obtained subsequently.
- Participated in a virtual planning meeting with the APRIES technical team in which the activities plan was agreed. A decision was also taken around updating/finalizing the ODK template for enhanced field data collection.
- Translation of the updated questionnaire into Krio by a member of the CMDA technical team (focusing on the newly added texts)
- A meeting with the CMDA team of Trainers to review to review and finalize the training schedule and assign roles in preparation for the training in Kambia.
- Coordinated with the Census and Surveys Division at Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) for the sampling and selection of 50 EAs (Enumeration Areas) across the 10 Chiefdoms in Kambia district and across localities (Rural/Urban). The Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) method was followed in selecting the EAs so that Chiefdoms and localities with higher population proportions had higher proportion of their EAs included in the selected sample. The selected 50 EAs were printed (in colour) and laminated.

- In close coordination with APRIES Country Coordinator, conducted a field visit with district security-sector authorities in Kambia, including the District Council, the District Office, Social Welfare Office, District NACOVERC (National Covid-19 emergency response centre) Office and the District Office for National Security (ONS). They were briefed about the up-coming data collection exercise. They all gave their approval and provided guidance on key security and COVID-19 awareness measures and guidelines, which the field staff needed to follow.

- 20 data collectors (15 Enumerators and 5 Field Supervisors) were recruited from among previous participants of the previously completed pilot conducted in Kenema, Kailahun and Kono Districts field staff.

- Requisite materials and supplies (including those relating to COVID-19 compliance) were procured and assembled in preparation for the conduct of the training and field deployment. Arrangements for hosting and catering services for the training was also finalized.

APPENDIX D: TRAINING OF DATA COLLECTORS

A four-day training was hosted at the local Sierra Leone Red Cross Society Hall in Kambia Town involving 20 quantitative data collectors (5 Field Supervisors and 15 Enumerators), between Thursday 16th September and Sunday 19th September 2021 (inclusive). The official opening was attended by the District Chair of the Human Trafficking Task Force Committee in Kambia, who doubles as the representative of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's affairs (Mrs Naomi Conteh) and the APRIES Country Coordinator (Mr. Umaru Fofanah). Statements from the various speakers highlighted the seriousness of the child trafficking situation in the country and Kambia district in particular, the negative impacts on the development of children, the importance of the study in providing evidence on the prevalence of child trafficking to inform policy and programmatic interventions. Trainees were encouraged to be diligent and take the training seriously and ensure the collection of high-quality data that would enhance the efforts of Government and APRIES in addressing the problem of child trafficking in the district and other parts of the country.

Day One of the training proceeded with the establishment of ground rules and training expectation. The background and objectives of study were explained, the Child Trafficking Vignettes and Child Trafficking baseline study methodology were presented and discussed. In the afternoon, the data collection instrument (Questionnaire) was introduced starting with an overview of the various sections. The first mock interview was conducted just to gauge the level of understanding of trainees. Day One ended with presentations on study target population and sampling methodology.

Day Two started with a recap of day one followed by continuation of reviews of the questionnaire. Sections C, D, E, F and G were covered in-depth with Q&A sessions. Mock interviews and discussions on interview skills and tips, field methods and protocols and data collection procedures were done before closing for the day.

On Day 3, ODK was introduced, and trainees used android devices to access the study instrument. They undertook practice sessions in pairs. Next to be covered were reviews of basic map reading and interpretation, household listings in assigned EAs, systematic random sampling and identifying selected households for interview. Then followed a session on strategies to handling difficult situations. The field staff were then released to do a quick pre-test of study instrument using ODK.

Day 4 (final day) started with a recap and feedback session on the pre-test, which was guided by the downloaded dataset of the submitted pre-test forms by trainees. Another mock interview session was conducted followed by a Q&A session. Final presentations were facilitated for COVID-19 awareness and mitigation measures in the field and the roles and responsibilities of Enumerators, Field Supervisors and district Coordinator. The day ended with evaluation of the training programme by trainees, assignment for field staff deployment, completion of logistical arrangements and payment of field allowances and closing statements.

Immediately after the training ended, some team members departed for their assigned Chiefdoms and communities. Actual data collection commenced on Monday 20th September 2021 across the ten chiefdoms in Kambia District, and was expected to last for at most 15 days.

APPENDIX E: SUPPORTIVE FIELD SUPERVISION AND DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE STRATEGIES

Enumerator	Chiefdom	Locality	Section	EACODE	# of HHs to be Interviewed	# of HHs Interviews Conducted	# of HHs interviews remain	Total # of targeted HHs	Total # of HHs Interviews	Total # of Interviews remain	% Completion
Abdul Kamara	Magbema	Urban	Robat	3-1-05-05-29	19		19	59	6	53	10%
	Tonko Limba	Rural	Magbonkoh	3-1-10-04-04	20		20				
	Tonko Limba	Rural	Mamankoh	3-1-10-05-06	20	6	14				
Alpha Mahmoud Jalloh	Bramaia	Rural	Fillighunyle	3-1-01-03-01	23	9	14	65	9	56	14%
	Bramaia	Rural	Kanku-Bramaia	3-1-01-07-04	23		23				
	Bramaia	Urban	Kukuna	3-1-01-10-09	19		19				
Aminata Fofana	Samu	Rural	Bubuya	3-1-09-01-04	22	6	16	59	6	53	10%
	Samu	Urban	Kassiri	3-1-09-02-02	18		18				
	Samu	Urban	Kassiri	3-1-09-02-13	19		19				
Aminata Kamara	Mambolo	Rural	Kalenkay	3-1-06-01-09	19		19	71	12	59	17%
	Mambolo	Urban	Mambolo	3-1-06-02-04	16		16				
	Mambolo	Urban	Mambolo	3-1-06-02-07	16		16				
	Mambolo	Rural	Mayakie	3-1-06-04-01	20	12	8				
Balkasu Jalloh	Dixin	Rural	Maton	3-1-02-05-04	24		24	69	11	58	16%
	Gbinle	Urban	Rogberay	3-1-03-06-02	13	11	2				
	Gbinle	Rural	Rogberay	3-1-03-06-06	16		16				
	Gbinle	Rural	Tawuya	3-1-03-08-04	16		16				
Brima Tangabay	Magbema	Rural	Tormina	3-1-05-07-03	18	12	6	65	12	53	18%
	Munu Thalla	Rural	Barmoi Bana	3-1-08-01-01	23		23				
	Munu Thalla	Rural	Matengha	3-1-08-07-01	24		24				
Gifty Johnson	Magbema	Rural	Robat	3-1-05-05-12	20	11	9	59	11	48	19%
	Mambolo	Rural	Robis	3-1-06-05-07	20		20				
	Mambolo	Rural	Rotain Bana	3-1-06-07-03	19		19				
Isata Sesay	Magbema	Rural	Bombe	3-1-05-01-08	18		18	74	5	69	7%
	Magbema	Rural	Kambia	3-1-05-03-56	20	5	15				
	Magbema	Rural	Kargbulor	3-1-05-04-06	18		18				
	Magbema	Rural	Kargbulor	3-1-05-04-17	18		18				
Ishmael V Kamara	Samu	Rural	Koya	3-1-09-03-03	22		22	67	10	57	15%
	Samu	Rural	Kychom	3-1-09-04-13	23	10	13				
	Samu	Rural	Makuma	3-1-09-07-04	22		22				
Massah Senessie	Magbema	Rural	Bombe	3-1-05-01-02	19	4	15	77	4	73	5%
	Magbema	Rural	Kamba	3-1-05-02-11	20		20				
	Magbema	Urban	Kambia	3-1-05-03-29	20		20				
	Magbema	Rural	Kambia	3-1-05-03-50	18		18				
Melvyn Koroma	Tonko Limba	Urban	Bubuya	3-1-10-01-08	25		25	65	6	59	9%
	Tonko Limba	Rural	Bubuya	3-1-10-01-11	20		20				
	Tonko Limba	Rural	Kamassassa	3-1-10-02-09	20	6	14				
Samuel Nyakeh Lamin	Samu	Urban	Makuma	3-1-09-07-08	18		18	63	14	49	22%
	Samu	Rural	Mapotolon	3-1-09-09-09	22	14	8				
	Samu	Rural	Rokon	3-1-09-11-03	23		23				
Saio Jawara	Magbema	Rural	Kargbulor	3-1-05-04-12	20		20	65	5	60	8%
	Masungbala	Rural	Kawula	3-1-07-03-02	32	5	27				
	Masungbala	Urban	Kawula	3-1-07-03-05	13		13				
Samuel Fornah	Tonko Limba	Urban	Bubuya	3-1-10-01-04	25	2	23	65	2	63	3%
	Tonko Limba	Rural	Bubuya	3-1-10-01-22	20		20				
	Tonko Limba	Rural	Kathanthineh	3-1-10-03-06	20		20				
Timothy Kamara	Khonimaka	Urban	Dramania /Seduya A	3-1-04-01-01	12		12	79	0	79	0%
	Khonimaka	Rural	Gberekhurray/Turaya	3-1-04-05-01	28		28				
	Magbema	Urban	Kambia	3-1-05-02-33	19		19				
	Magbema	Urban	Rokupr	3-1-05-06-26	20		20				
Total					1000	113	887	1000	113	887	

- CMDA created a WhatsApp Group with the participation of all data collectors (Enumerators and Supervisors), District Coordinator, Study Coordinator and CMDA's Data manager. This forum was used to share useful information, updates, photos, challenges and any other relevant pieces and bits on the study.
- The CMDA Study Coordinator had direct access to the ODK server and so was able to download submitted data on a daily basis for review together with the CMDA Data Manager. A daily update on uploaded data progress was analyzed and shared with the group on the WhatsApp forum. Issues arising (if any) were communicated to the District Coordinator who would get in touch with the Supervisor and the Enumerator concerned for resolution.
- Field data collection was structured such that Supervisors had to be in touch with their Enumerators on a daily basis and at least pay three field visit to each assigned supervisee whilst they were out on the job. Enumerators were required to report to their supervisors on daily basis (whether physically or by phone) to provide updates and debrief (verbally) before completing and submitting the daily debrief form through the Supervisor.
- Issues of data collection protocols, field coordination, staff welfare, community engagement and the like were addressed by the District Coordinator with the support of the Study Coordinator.
- Technical issues related to ODK and the mobile application or android devices were channelled to the CMDA ICT/Data Manager through the supervisor and the district coordinator.
- Administrative matters related to the study that were not handled by the field supervisors or the District Coordinator were referred to the Study Coordinator for his attention.

APPENDIX F: LABOR SECTORS EXPERIENCED BY TRAFFICKED CHILDREN IN THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS

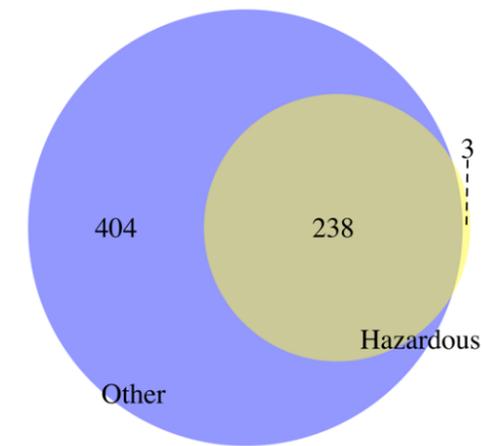


Figure F1. The Venn Diagram of labor sectors household children who were trafficked were involved in Kambia, Sierra Leone. Most of the sampled household children being trafficked were involved in other labor sectors such as domestic work, agricultural work and trading.

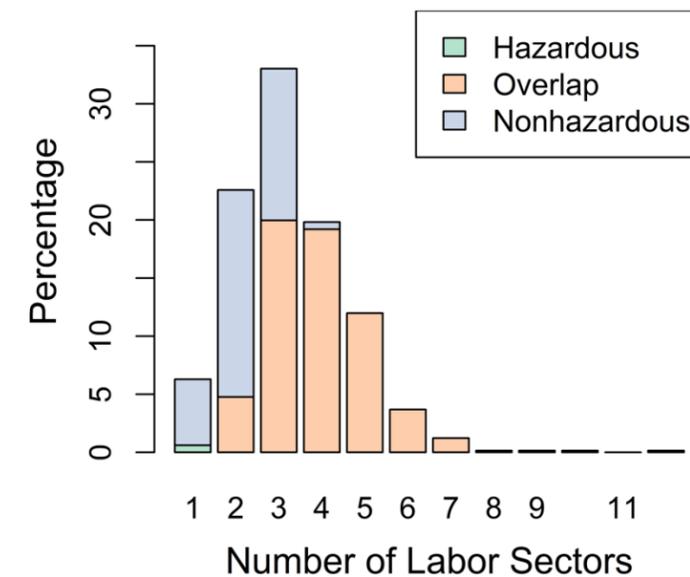


Figure F2. Histogram of the number of labor sectors that trafficked children in the sampled households were involved in Kambia, Sierra Leone.

Table F1. Labor Sectors Experienced by Children in the Sampled Households

	Labor Sectors	Number (Percent) (Among Children Who Were Trafficked)	Number (Percent) (Among Children Who Were Not Trafficked and Labor Exploited)
Hazardous	Pottering	158 (24.3%)	0
	Fishing	89 (13.7%)	0
	Construction	31 (4.76%)	0
	Mining/Quarrying	15 (2.3%)	0
	Manufacturing	8 (1.23%)	0
	Sex work (selling or giving any type of sexual service)	3 (0.46%)	0
Total Hazardous		241 (out of 651, 37.01%)	0
Other	Domestic work	624 (95.9%)	1047 (81.1%)
	Agricultural work	494 (75.9%)	506 (39.2%)
	Trading/vending activities	335 (51.5%)	247 (19.1%)
	Motorcycle taxi driving	39 (5.99%)	2 (0.155%)
	Working in workshops, e.g., crafts, mechanics	22 (3.38%)	7 (0.542%)
	Begging	8 (1.23%)	1 (0.0775%)
Total Other		642 (out of 651, 98.6%)	1061 (out of 1291, 82.18%)
Total Hazardous & Other		645 (out of 651, 99.08%)	1061 (out of 1291, 82.18%)

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END OF REPORT