

STREET CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MWANZA

Ghetto Count 2014



**SURVEY OF STREET INVOLVED CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MWANZA
WHO RESIDE IN 'GHETTOS', CAMPS AND GUEST HOUSES – APRIL
2014**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This 2014 “Survey of street involved children and youth in Mwanza who reside in ghettos, camps and guesthouses” was coordinated by Railway Children Africa in partnership with charitable organizations in Mwanza - namely Upendo Daima and Caretakers of the Environment (COET).

We would like to thank the departments of Social Welfare and Community Development in Nyamagana and Ilemela for providing approval and support during the survey.

A special thanks also goes out to the former street youth who participated in the field work and whose knowledge of the environment was crucial to guide the methodology and carry out the survey.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Ghettos

450 children and youth in total were counted of these

- 199 were children below 18 years
- 251 were youth 19-25 years

Of the children below 18

- 91 were boys
- 108 were girls

Of the youth aged 19-25

- 140 were boys
- 111 were girls

Camps

449 children and youth in total were counted of these

- 115 were children below 18 years
- 334 were youth 19-25 years

Of the children below 18

- 82 were boys
- 33 were girls

Of the youth aged 19-25

- 277 were boys
- 57 were girls

Guesthouses

- 61 girls were counted
- 39 girls aged 11 to 18
- 22 girls aged 19-25

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a survey that aims to obtain a quantitative picture of children and youth in Mwanza who are street involved and detached from their families, whilst residing in places that offer an alternative to sleeping outdoors in the streets. The survey conducted in April 2014, was initiated and coordinated by Railway Children Africa and involved Upendo Daima and Caretakers of the Environment Tanzania (COET) – all of whom deliver programmes for street involved children and youth and families in Mwanza. The findings presented in this report provide us with completely new information regarding the numbers and living conditions of children and youth in the streets of Mwanza.

A headcount of street children and youth conducted in December 2013 showed that at least 390 (380M:10F) children and youth were sleeping outdoors in the streets of Mwanza. We know from experience that many children and youth do not sleep outside in the streets, but rather rent and share rooms, live in camps or even stay in guesthouses that resemble brothels and are part of the sex industry. These children and youth are very much living in the same circumstances as fulltime street children, assumed to be detached from their families, with the only difference being that they sleep sheltered indoors or in informal camps.

We decided to conduct this survey, a ‘Ghetto-count’ that would allow us to obtain the numbers of these children and youth who are in the streets, yet out of sight in town during night hours. One of the most important objectives of this survey was to establish the numbers of street involved girls – since girls rarely sleep unprotected outdoors the headcount survey provided limited data on this group.

This report therefore aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the numbers of street connected children and youth in Mwanza through presenting the findings of the previous headcount survey alongside the findings of this ‘Ghetto-count’.

This survey was intended to be mainly a quantitative one. However, as it was carried out, the data collection teams made many valuable observations beyond numbers and these form part of the report and add another dimension to the findings. Furthermore, the knowledge and experience of Railway Children, Upendo Daima and COET is tied in to the analysis.

As referenced above, a headcount survey was carried out in December 2013 and this report is available through Railway Children’s website. The Headcount report provides more context to the situation of children and youth who are in the streets of Mwanza, and up-to-date information about Tanzania and the policy context relevant to vulnerable children. These topics will not be further repeated here and we would recommend that the two reports are read together.

METHODOLOGY

The method of this survey was completely reliant on selecting youth and street workers who were familiar with areas where children and youth reside. These field workers selected areas ahead of the count and used their personal connections and experience of the local areas to access the places where children and youth reside. Furthermore, their observations and previous knowledge form a significant part of this report and have been used as a way of contextualising and interpreting the quantitative findings.

CO-ORDINATION AND PROCESS

The survey was coordinated by Railway Children and was conducted by street involved youth alongside workers from Upendo Daima and COET.

Each area selected was visited by a team of four people. Led by a team leader, who was responsible for the coordination of the team and the communication with local officials, the data was recorded and handed over to Railway Children.

The survey was approved in advance by the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development of both Municipalities - Nyamagana and Ilemela. Local government leaders of a number of Wards were then informed that the survey would be taking place in their areas.

Several preparatory meetings were held with field workers to discuss and create the methodology and select areas based on the knowledge of the staff and female and male youth conducting the survey. A schedule for field work was then constructed allocating field workers to the areas where they were most familiar with the population of children and youth.

The field work lasted for around one month's time. Two parallel teams of four people were working on most days in different areas. Different areas were visited during the late afternoon and early evening when the youth were assumed to be present in the chosen locations and as such each shift only lasted for 2-3 hours.

Data collection sheets were used to record the findings - a separate sheet was used for each location. These were collated and discussed the day after each shift and the data was then entered into a spreadsheet.

When the field work came to an end, a validation meeting was held with all those who had participated and a number of additional observations from the field work were recorded in addition to validating some of the assumptions that were made throughout the survey. Again, the personal experience of the various youth participating in the survey has been used to explain the findings.

DATA AND CATEGORIES

Our main aim was to count children and youth who are street involved and living detached from their original homes and families, and who reside in a range of settings that differ from sleeping outdoors in the streets of central areas around Mwanza, previously surveyed as part of the 'headcount'.

The survey, which was primarily quantitative, applied two categories - different types of living arrangements and an age/gender breakdown of the children and youth who were counted.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS / PLACES

During preparatory meetings with field workers, it became clear that these youth live in the following types of places, which were used as different categories during the survey:

'Ghettos' - rented rooms that are often shared by several children and youth where they themselves are the tenant

As part of this category we also included places where street girls are residing with an adult who is not a family member. Rather, the person they live with is aware that the girls are involved in sex work or at least street involved and they commonly benefit financially or in other ways from the girls staying there. We decided to not make this a separate category since it was sometimes difficult during field work to make a clear distinction between these types of situations and those where a landlord or neighbour has a closer and sometimes helpful relationship with children and youth who rent rooms.

'Camps' - places that resemble camps, for example, non-permanent structures (tents, shacks, outdoor locations etc) which exist in a fixed location, but are inside the community rather than in the city centre streets. The types of places allocated to this category were very diverse.

'Guest house' - these are guest houses that operate as brothels or are commonly utilised for sex work and where young girls and female youth rent a room and undertake sex work.

GENDER / AGE BREAKDOWN

The children and youth were categorised according to gender and the following age breakdowns:

0-6 yrs, 7-10 yrs, 11-14 yrs, 15-18 yrs and 19-25 yrs

It was noted when a girl was pregnant, and when young children were the children of youth themselves and when they were living alone or

independently. It was also noted when a female and male youth were living together as a couple.

Each place of residence of the children and youth was recorded separately with reference to the name of the Ward, area and the name commonly used for the room, house, camp or guesthouse in question.

The data sheets used contained a space for notes, and throughout the survey the teams used this to record additional and useful information that they knew about the youth which helped us by adding to the interpretation and analysis of the numbers.

RISK MITIGATION DURING FIELD WORK

Due to the types of environments that were visited, it was to be expected that the survey would bring a number of risks and challenges during the field work. The following risks and mitigation strategies were identified during preparatory meetings with field workers.

| | |
|--|--|
| Children/youth will ask or demand for money or things during the visit | We tried as far as possible to avoid handing out money or goods as this might raise the expectations of others in the area and create more problems in the future. Teams were however allowed to make exceptions to this rule if the situation demanded it and it was necessary to avoid aggression, or when they found a very compelling situation. We did not budget for any hand outs. If a child or youth was in need of assistance they were connected to our services. |
| Children/youth might get upset with us for wanting to survey them, or might have been disappointed by (our) organisation/s in the past | We took a humble approach and listened, avoiding getting into any arguments. We were apologetic and sympathetic rather than defensive. If there were serious concerns or complaints, we reported this to our organisations and followed up. |
| Local authorities, police jamii or 'sungusungu' might arrest us | Introduction letters to Mwenyekitis and Police were issued in advance, and approval obtained from City Authorities. ID cards were issued for staff during field work. |
| General security in the areas | Late night working was not encouraged if the area was not safe. Staff moved as a group and travelled home whilst it was still considered safe (around 8 |

| | |
|---|---|
| | pm). Ghettos were not approached when a security risk was evident. |
| Youth in our teams have disagreements with youth in the ghettos and arguments arise | Where we were aware in advance, we avoided any arguments or uncomfortable situations. If one of the youth was on bad terms with somebody whose home was visited teams were advised to leave that member and go without them to a certain ghetto. We made it clear that nobody in our teams was allowed to carry a weapon during the field work. |
| Our presence might frighten or intimidate the children and youth who we visit | A friendly approach was used when arriving in locations. As far as possible we used established relationships and had somebody who knew the children and youth arrive with the team. Some locations were appropriate to reach in smaller numbers, so when the situation demanded it, some team members would wait elsewhere while one or two people approached the place being visited. |

AREAS

The areas for field work selected in advance were located in 11 different wards, shown below:

| Locations | Wards |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Kirumba Kitangiri | Igogo |
| Ibanda Kabuhoro Kigoto | Maina Mkuyuni Nyegezi |
| Capri Point | Mwembeni Buzuruga Mabatini |
| Bugarika Bugando Ngkali Sahara | Nyakabungo Maendeleo Isamilo Uhuru |

EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES DURING THE FIELD WORK

Most of the anticipated risks did not materialise, partly due to the careful preparation and strategies applied by the teams during field work.

The teams found quite a few local bars inside residential areas, often in conjunction with some of the ghettos where the youth live. In some of these a few children, some as young as 12 were seen drinking the local brew. Many of these bars were known for prostitution. These were the locations where the teams faced most challenges upon arrival: Making and selling local brew is illegal and the owners and customers were suspicious or defensive, thinking that perhaps our team were police who had come to arrest them. The team managed this by greeting people and starting a conversation using the same type of street slang that was the normal language of these areas.

One strategy the teams applied in order to stay safe was to carefully select when to disclose who they were and what they were doing, and when not to. In most cases when visiting ghettos they introduced themselves as workers of our organisations without disclosing they were conducting an actual survey. Sometimes, when the situation allowed, the team were very open about the fact that they were doing a survey. When visiting most of the camps, and the guesthouses, they did not disclose even who they were as they sensed that there was a significant risk involved which may jeopardise the data collection or the safety of the team.

The teams handed out small amounts of cash as another strategy of staying safe. As anticipated, they were frequently asked for money by the youth. When the situation demanded it, especially in locations where the youth were drunk or high, they would leave on a friendly note, giving out some small change as a sign of their appreciation to avoid any tension occurring.

In some places the field work became a rather emotional experience for some team members as they met old friends who they used to know from the streets. Three of the street workers used to be on the streets for many years. They met with people they used to live with on the streets as children and youth, whom they had not seen in years. They had previously assumed that perhaps these people had gone back to their families, been imprisoned or even died, and found that they are still around but now renting rooms. Generally these occasions however showed that these friends from the past are still living the same lifestyle, for example some of the girls are still working as sex workers after many years.

Whilst the teams faced suspicion from some youth during the field work, there was generally great openness towards their presence and their roles as social workers. The youth who themselves conducted

the field work with us insisted on showing us their own rooms and being counted together with their children, spouses and other youth with whom they live. This was reassuring to staff conducting and coordinating the survey as it showed a great deal of collaboration, ownership and openness from these youth.

When arriving to a ghetto or camp, the youth on teams first approached the places alone while the staff stayed behind, then called them to join so that they could introduce themselves.

As was expected, some of the youth visited would ask the team for help - either for immediate needs or to change their situation. This could pose a challenge especially on an emotional level for the field workers as a definitive answer could not be provided. We had agreed in advance to avoid making any commitments to children and youth during the survey, but where appropriate we would refer cases into our services.

QUALITY OF DATA - STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE METHODOLOGY

GHETTOS

The data from the ghettos is considered to be the most accurate and robust of the three categories of living arrangements. This is thanks to the use of personal connections during the count. Where a team member had a direct or indirect connection to the individuals in the ghettos, this allowed them to obtain accurate information. This information was mostly obtained through visiting the locations and talking to the children and youth who were counted. When it felt too unsafe, inappropriate or intrusive to ask questions in a ghetto, observation was used. In some locations, only the previous knowledge of the teams was used, for example, in cases when they knew the people living there but during the count they were not at home. The notes that were made by teams on data sheets for ghettos would often indicate the occupation or lifestyle of the youth, such as if there were couples, blood relatives, what kind of livelihood they have, and when they were known to be sex workers. These notes have helped us in the analysis and assumptions of this report.

CAMPS

When visiting the camps, the teams in almost all cases did not reveal who they were or what they were doing. It was anticipated that doing so would pose a risk to the team since most of the youth visited in these places were not known to the staff and could therefore have easily become defensive and feel that the team's presence was an intrusion and a threat. Visiting these camps through the youth known in the locations was therefore in most cases a matter of stopping by, greeting in a friendly manner, while at the same time doing a silent headcount of people who were present and assumed to be staying there. Some distinctions were made. For

example, in lakeside camps, counters differentiated between youth themselves and customers buying fish. The numbers from one larger camp are not based on a headcount, but on the descriptions of the owner of the place where the children and youth stay. Data of camps provides an approximate picture of the numbers of individuals living there, but is not considered to be as accurate and robust as the data obtained in ghettos. It is however to be noted that we may have counted some individuals who did not actually live there. We may also have been unable to count individuals who were not present during our visit.

GUESTHOUSES

Visiting the guest houses was a very sensitive process due to the illegality of the sex trade. Where managers of the guest houses were present, they would become verbally aggressive even at the slightest suspicion that the visitors were anyone other than paying customers or sex workers. Our teams entered these places by sending just one or two people in, most often giving the guest house staff the impression that they were either a customer if a man, or there looking for a friend if female. Numbers of girls were then mostly obtained through headcounts of girls who were seen in there and on whose rooms we knocked the door. Behind doors that were opened, we would pretend to ask for a certain person or just greet the girls. Some girls were not seen, but were included in the numbers as one of the girls on our teams knows them personally and that they reside there fulltime.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

SUMMARY

This section contains an overview of the quantitative findings of each category of living situations – ghettos, camps and guesthouses – presented together with observations and descriptions from these places that further contextualise the findings. These build on the experiences from field work as well as prior experience and knowledge of the data collectors.

In total:

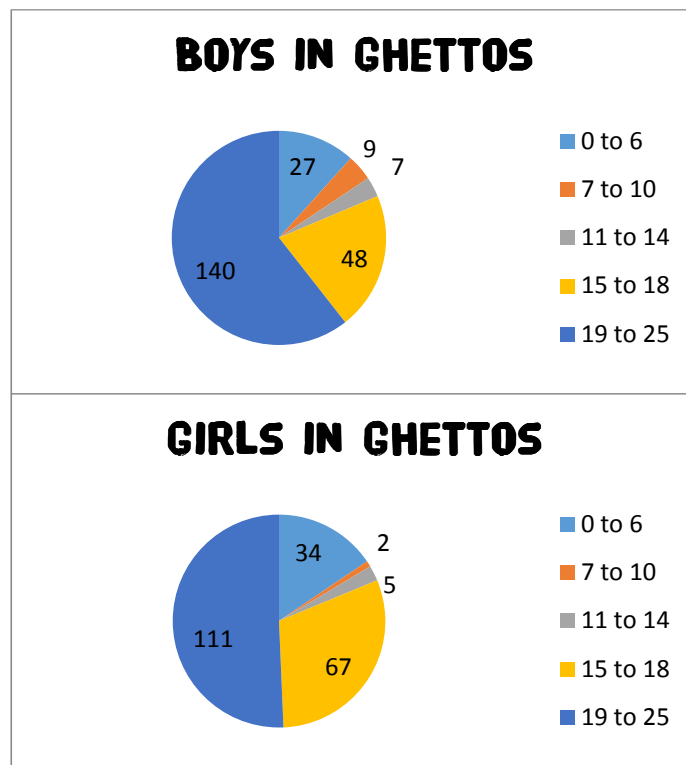
- 960 individuals were counted (370 girls and 590 boys)
- Ghettos recorded 450 youths and children (219 girls and 231 boys)
- Camps recorded 449 youths and children (90 girls and 359 boys)
- Guesthouses recorded 61 children and youth (all girls)

FINDINGS FROM THE GHETTOS, CAMPS AND GUESTHOUSES

GHETTOS

IN NUMBERS

132 different ghettos were covered as part of this survey, containing 450 individuals.



- 61 children of youths aged 0-6 years
- 11 children of youths aged 7-10
- 12 children (siblings, children of youth and children alone) aged 11-14
- 115 children aged 15-18
- 251 youths aged 19-25

Breakdown of ghettos per ward: Kirumba (35 ghettos), Isamilo (18 ghettos), Mbugani (11 ghettos), Kitangiri (4 ghettos), Nyamagana (12 ghettos), Pamba (13 ghettos), Mkuyuni (7 ghettos), Igogo (16 ghettos), Butimba (12 ghettos), Mahina (4 ghettos)

DESCRIPTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

'Ghetto' is a description used by the youth themselves and it usually means a room which is shared by several individuals. The word here is applied to all rooms of street youth no matter the number of residents.

Youth previously living outdoors in the streets moved to rooms due to several factors. One obvious factor is that many have made an individual conscious choice to improve their situation including their housing, which comes with their age and maturity. In the street community, it is more socially acceptable and age appropriate for a young child to sleep outside than it is for an adolescent or young adult. The more environmental factors for these youth as a group however have to do with the amount of harassment, disturbance and risks they would encounter in the streets, from authorities, community members or other people in the streets.

Most youth lived in independent rented rooms or houses where the landlord/lady is a private individual. These rooms were of various qualities and rents can range from approximately 5,000-25,000 Tsh per month, approximately £2 - £10. Some rooms were in mud houses or even unfinished houses and some were in properly constructed houses. In a few cases youths shared an entire house with several rooms. None of them were in a fenced compound, meaning the security is often limited.

The ghettos would host anything from one to twenty youth in the same room or rooms - most commonly 1-5 individuals. The shared house hosting the highest number was inhabited by 20 female youth, and the shared single room with the highest number was inhabited by 13 boys. Some had chosen to live alone while other tenants had welcomed a number of their friends to stay with them all in the same small room. The friends of tenants are seen more as guests and thereby have less security in terms of their housing situation than the person who holds the contract with the landlord.

One of the aims of this survey was to confirm the number and ages of the children and youth, especially to find out to what extent, if any, young children live in shared ghettos. The findings show that the occurrence of this is minimal. Generally only older children aged 15-18 and young adults live in this way. Part of the explanation for this, provided by the youth conducting the survey, is that a young child is not allowed to rent a room themselves. In turn, youth do not take younger children into their ghettos because in doing so they are likely to get into trouble with the local authorities, who may make a case that youth are encouraging these children to stay away from home and get sucked into street life, or that they are exploiting them for their own personal benefit.

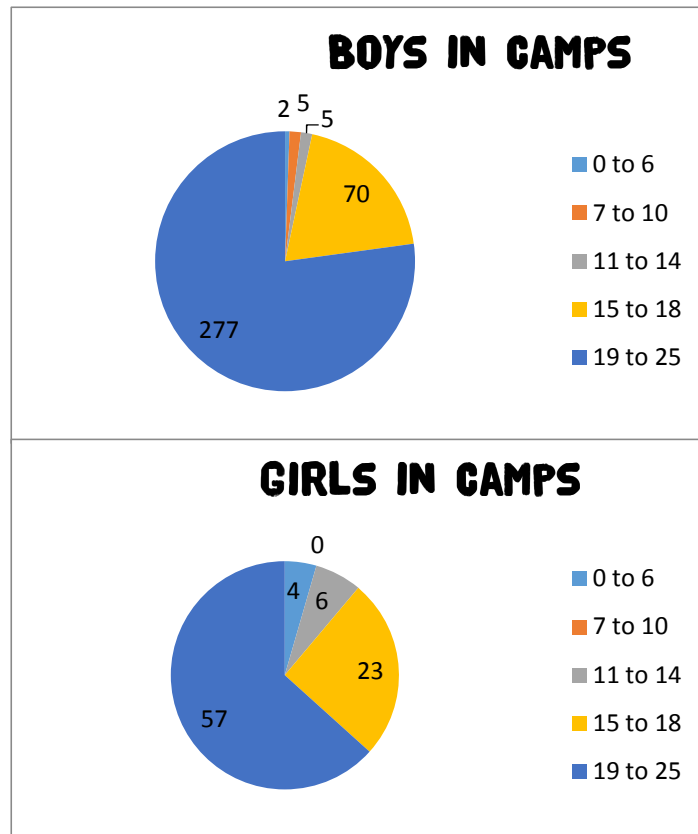
In the ghettos, girls and boys were similar in numbers (231M/219F). This is an interesting finding considering that among the children who sleep outside in the streets, the number of girls is minimal. Girls on our field teams shared with us that when new girls arrive to the streets they will usually start out alone outside, and they are usually contacted by other girls within a short period of time and taken into one of the ghettos where they are safer. Starting out like this, they will often get the advice to find somewhere to stay, i.e. a shared ghetto or one of their own. Others start residing in guesthouses where they also practice sex work.

According to girls on the team, female children and youth in the streets do not only live indoors because it is physically safer, it also provides them with a degree of legal security. In the case that they are arrested for example, during a police raid in a brothel, they depend on a letter from a local leader in their home area in order to be released, something that cannot be obtained if living in the streets.

It was noted that in one ghetto where seven children and youth were counted the adult parent and grandmother were present but the lifestyle of the entire family was the same as their peers with the difference being that they were not detached from their families.

CAMPS

IN NUMBERS



449 individuals in 17 different camps were counted.

6 Children of youths aged 0-6 years
5 Children of youths aged 7 to 10 years
11 children aged 11-14
93 aged 15-18
334 youths aged 19-25

Breakdown of camps per ward Kirumba (9 camps), Kitangiri (4 camps), Nyamagana (1 camp), Mkuyuni (1 camp), and Igogo (2 camps)

DESCRIPTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

We use the word 'camp' to describe a specific living area which is most often outdoors and sometimes consists of temporary structures such as tents, and where a number of youth live together. The places covered in this category were very diverse in nature.

Similar to the statements made above about youth in ghettos, the youth who were counted in camps are former street-involved children who have decided to move out of town where they will not face

harassment or risk of arrests, and where they can find a more age-appropriate lifestyle.

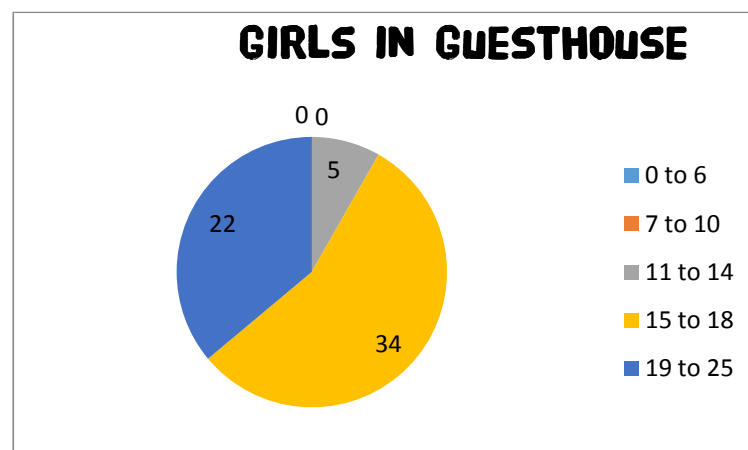
Fishing was the most common livelihood in the camps. For example, in Kirumba nine out of ten camps survived on fishing. A number of the camps visited were hidden away beside the water in environments where there is bush and large rocks and a constant risk of running into a crocodile. Some of these camps were barely accessible unless you go there by boat or raft, and were very much out of the sight of the rest of the local community. The youth residing here fish for a living, some of them have their own gear and simple boats and therefore get the full profits of their catch, while others are fishing for other people and therefore earn a very minimal income.

Other camps were inside residential areas where youth would sleep in groups on the premises of a private individual and in one case, in a bar. Counted in this category was a big house where approximately 100 children and youth would come each night and pay 200 Tsh, approximately 8 pence, in return for a safe place to sleep.

GUEST HOUSES

IN NUMBERS

A total of 61 children and youth, all of whom were girls were found residing in Guesthouses



Breakdown of guesthouses per ward: Kirumba (3) and Mbugani (3)

DESCRIPTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The guesthouses visited are locations used for sex work, often housing girls who are street connected and who have no other place to live. Some of these guesthouses operate as brothels, or at the very least run a business based on sex work and where the main income is made from the rent of rooms.

Guest houses are relevant to the girls in the streets, and similar to the male and female youth who live in ghettos, girls most often chose to not sleep outside unprotected. While they are working in the sex trade guest houses offer shelter as well as an income.

Some girls will live full-time and for extended periods of time in a guesthouse room, while others will come and go. They often share rooms and when a customer comes along, one girl will occupy the room with the customer while the other girls leave them alone for a while. From a guesthouse, because of the secluded environment, these girls are able to work day and night as opposed to girls who go to town to undertake prostitution in the open streets at night.

In the visits to guesthouses, no children of the girls were found. We can assume that if these girls have children, they live elsewhere or that they stay with someone else while the girl spends time in the guesthouse.

WHAT ELSE DID WE FIND OUT ABOUT THESE CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

STREET INVOLVEMENT

The method was structured around locating and visiting places where street involved children and youth reside, by using the personal connections and local knowledge of the youth in our teams. Upon completion of the survey, it was verified by all teams that all children and youth whom we visited either have been or are still on the streets to some extent. There is quite a wide range to their current situations but they are all known to our teams as being part of the 'street community' in the past or present, and their social connections and livelihoods are very much still centred around the streets and street life. One of the youth who did the field work defined them as "all having lived in the streets but nowadays live indoors, but still depend on the streets to various extents".

Observations during field work revealed that alcohol and drug use is common among the youth.

COUPLES

We recorded a number of couples living together as if married. In reality they will often not be married on paper but consider themselves as husband and wife. It is common practice in Tanzania to live together and be considered as husband and wife even if there is no formal wedding certificate, not only among street involved people. A boy who is street involved will most definitely couple up with a girl who is also street involved, or has been and we understand this was the case for all the couples who we recorded.

CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH

72 children of the youth were counted in ghettos alone and most of these were of 0-6 years of age. The survey itself does not provide evidence of the levels of risk or vulnerability these young children face, but we can safely assume that the capacity of these youth to provide a safe upbringing and environment, emotionally and physically, is limited.

LIVELIHOODS

The majority of the youth residing in ghettos work and earn an income to some extent in order to secure money to cover the basics of rent and food. Their livelihoods will often depend on the streets, for example carrying cargo in the bus stand, pushing a wheel barrow in the harbours, running a petty business or for many of the girls, earning money from sex work. Again, our experience during the survey revealed a wide variety of livelihoods among the youth who were known to us.

GIRLS AND SEX WORK

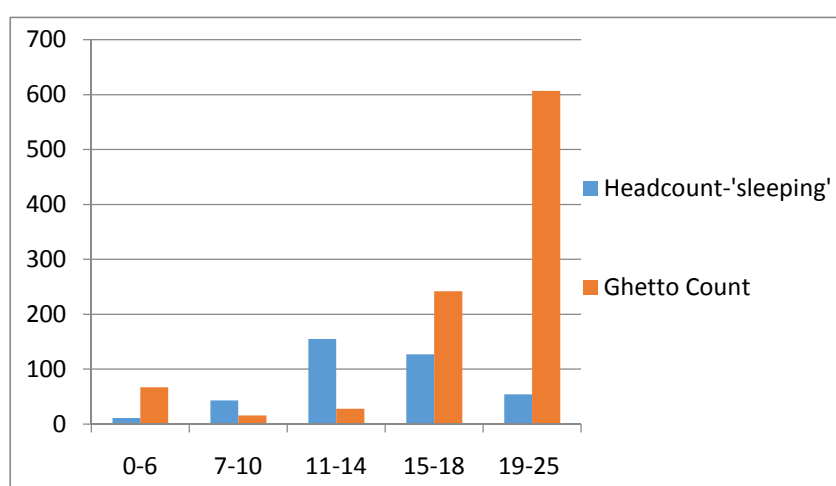
This is the first ever survey known to us in Mwanza which has provided a picture of the numbers of street involved girls. Previous surveys we have conducted have failed to do so since they have taken place in the streets, where many girls are based, yet out of sight. This survey shows that they reside inside residential areas, and that many practice sex work at night in locations that are often hidden. This survey does not aim to provide robust evidence of the extent to which the entire population of street girls in Mwanza are involved in sex work. With the findings and observations made here, we can however assume that sex work is very common among these girls. A large number of the girls counted in the ghettos during the survey were known sex workers by the male and female youth doing field work. Others were known as former sex workers who now make a living in a different way.

In addition, girls conducting field work and who are extremely well aware of the population of street girls in Mwanza, claim that most girls who are in the streets for different periods of time will do sex work at some point. They also describe how the girls will often look after one another, yet introduce new girls to the sex trade. When new girls arrive to town, more experienced girls will invite them into a ghetto or a guesthouse as a way of protecting them. New girls will then rather quickly get sucked into the same lifestyle as the experienced girls, and they will eventually get the advice to move into a more permanent ghetto or start their own.

HEADCOUNT FINDINGS + GHETTO COUNT FINDINGS – THE WHOLE PICTURE

As mentioned in the introduction, a headcount of children in the streets was conducted a few months prior to this survey, and as part of this headcount children and youth sleeping outside in the streets were counted in different areas across Mwanza. The following table presents the totals of the ghetto count combined with the night time totals from the headcount:

| Age groups | 0–6 | 7–10 | 11–14 | 15–18 | 19–25 | GRAND TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Headcount – ‘sleeping’ | 11 (M) | 43 (M) | 155 (150M:5F) | 127 (125M:2F) | 54 (51M:3F) | 390 (380M:10F) |
| Ghetto-count | 67 (29M:38F) | 16 (14M:2F) | 28 (12M:16F) | 242 (118M:124F) | 607 (417M:190F) | 960 (590M:370F) |
| AGE GROUP TOTALS | 78 (40M:38F) | 59 (57M:2F) | 183 (162M:21F) | 369 (243M:126F) | 661 (468M:193F) | 1350 (970M:380F) |



The ghetto-count recorded a total of 960 individuals whereas the headcount recorded 390.

A number of differences can be noted when comparing the data of children and youth sleeping outside in the streets and those in ghettos, camps and guesthouses.

The headcount showed 54 children below the age of 10 sleeping in the streets and it was assumed during field work that most of these children would have been alone without adult supervision. In the ghetto count however, all children in the two younger age categories were children of the older children and youth.

The age category of 11–14 years is the most numerous for children sleeping alone in the streets (155 children). The Ghetto-count recorded a smaller number in this age group (28). Some of these children were children of the youth themselves or younger siblings

of youth. Others were children living without their family and who were in the streets, just like all the older children and youth in the two higher age categories.

In the age category of 15-18 years both surveys show a similar population.

In the final age category, youth aged 19-25 years the difference is very significant with 54 individuals in the headcount and 607 in the Ghetto-count.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEW LEARNING

QUANTITATIVE:

1. At least 1350 children and youth in Mwanza are street involved while generally detached from their families

Evidence: Adding the findings from the headcount survey to the finding of this survey, we conclude that at the times these surveys were conducted, there were at least 1350 children and youth in Mwanza who are street involved, most of whom are assumed to be detached from their families since they live independently and have been street involved for extended periods of time. It was noted that within this number 83 young children were children of the older children or youth themselves.

2. Girls make up over a quarter (26%) of street-involved children and youth in Mwanza

Evidence: This number is based on the numbers of children/youth across both surveys, excluding the number of small children of the youth themselves (330 females out of a total of 1267 children and youth).

3. The vast majority of street involved girls live sheltered in ghettos or guesthouses

Evidence: In the headcount only 10 girls were found sleeping outside among a total population of 390. In the ghetto count however approximately half of the children and youth recorded in ghettos were female. In camps, most of which are outdoors, the vast majority were male. In addition we counted a population of girls who stay in guesthouses.

4. Young children sleep in the streets while most of the older children and youth sleep indoors or in camps away from town centres

Evidence: It is clear from the comparison between the two surveys that the children who sleep outside in the streets are generally young with the most common age category being 11-14. In this survey no children below 10 were found to be living without their parents, and very few children aged 11-14. The ghetto count showed approximately 11 times more youth aged 19-25 than the headcount.

QUALITATIVE:

As children in the streets become youth, starting at around 15 years of age, they will often stop sleeping in the town streets.

A child who is left to live in the streets long term is likely to remain detached from their families and continue living within the range of different vulnerable and risky circumstances described in this report.

Evidence: This survey shows a high number of older children and youth (849 aged 15-25) who are or have been street involved to various extents, living in different settings throughout the city. The vast majority live independently alone or with peers and a lower number are sheltered by an adult, often for payment, with whom they did not grow up and who is not a relative. The vast majority of these youth used to be full-time in the streets as younger children, sleeping outdoors in Mwanza. This survey testifies that the vast majority of these individuals continued to stay detached from their families once they had entered the streets at a younger age.

We can assume that many children who are in the streets today, unless reunified, raised in an orphanage, or imprisoned, are likely to end up in the range of circumstances described in this report.

KEY IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR WORK

The previous headcount report (2013) contains recommendations around how to work with the various age groups, with a gender perspective, and these will not be repeated here. The following brief points refer specifically to implications for our outreach work to the areas and populations that were discovered during this survey, especially where these relate to the goals of our programmes.

- Outreach to younger children in the streets needs to take place through street based work in central areas since the surveys confirm that this is where the concentration of younger children is.
- Girls are a hidden group in the streets but they exist in higher numbers than previously recognised. We can make contact with them through visits to their homes/ghettos and through locations used for sex work.
- Part of the aim of our youth work is to make the streets safer for children. Youth groups and gangs exist to a much greater extent than we previously imagined, but since the majority of these reside in different locations than younger children, i.e. out of the centres, we will best fulfil the multiple aims of the youth work through focusing on youth living in town centres where the children also stay.
- The ghetto count reveals that having children is common among youth who are still street involved and live in ghettos, either single or as couples. This group should be considered in our preventative family work since the children of these youth are likely to be at very high risk of entering the streets themselves when they are older.

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Fighting for street children