

STUDY OF SEX TRAFFICKING IN NAMIBIA

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Sex Trafficking in Namibia

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(ii) Abstract

The researcher investigated the existence, prevalence and causes of trafficking for sexual exploitation in Namibia, as well as its impact and effects on both its victims and society as a whole.

Due to the complexity and dangerous nature of her topic of study, she utilised a unique method in which she identifies and capacitates specific members of the study's target group to lead her into areas which would otherwise be too difficult for her to reach and involving them in data collection.

For validity and authenticity purposes, the research was both quantitative and qualitative in nature. It combined different social research data collection techniques by administering standardized validated questionnaires to 230 respondents during in-person interviews as well as carrying out systematic field observations in key areas in 18 out of the 35 of the country's regional metropolises and border posts from where it collected information provided by 6 Focus Group Discussion Meetings (FGDMs) and 32 key informants. This was complemented by compilation of 18 case studies representing real life stories of possible victims of human trafficking.

The study was able to establish that while sex trafficking as a social phenomenon exists in the country, there was little public awareness about it. Whereas the phenomenon was found fairly new, it was also found growing fast mainly among women, young adolescents and children living in specially difficult circumstances such as unemployed school drop-outs and orphaned youths mainly due to deep-rooted social, economic and gender inequalities. Its consequences included physical, health and moral hazards such as diseases that included sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and abandonment and homelessness.

Finally, the study makes some recommendations for policy and legislative prevention and protection measures, as well as practical service delivery interventions particularly in terms of public awareness building in order to reduce social, economic and gender inequality that serve to promote the problem.

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(v) Dedication

To my parents, my late mother, Violet Bamubona Kambamu, a lay preacher, whose life-long Mother's Union leadership work among her parish's poor village women introduced me to community work; and my father and personal friend Deacon Yosamu Kambamu, who even at 90-years-of-age, is still a vibrant inspiration to many young people including the 7-HIV/AIDS orphans he is nurturing and mentoring today.

(vi) Declarations

I, Merab Kambamu Kiremire, declare hereby that this is a true reflection of my own research and writing, and that this work, or any part thereof, has not been submitted for a degree at any other institution of higher education.

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Merab Kambamu Kiremire

December 2009

(v) List of Acronyms

ACC	- Anti Corruption Commission
ACRWC	- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children
ACHPR	- African Charter on Human and People's Rights
AIM	- Affirming Inclusive Ministries
APA	- African Prosecutors Association
ARI	- African Regional Integration
ARV	- Anti-Retroviral
AU	- African Union
BCC	- Behaviour Change Communication
BIG	- Basic Income Grant
CAT	- Convention against Torture
CATW	- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-International
CBO	- Community-based Organization
CBS	- Central Bureau of Statistics
CCN	- Council of Churches of Namibia
CCPR	- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
CEDAW	- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEWFCL	- Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
COMESA	- Common Market for East and Southern Africa
UNCRC	- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children
CP	- Child Protection
CRC	- Central Republic of Congo

CSEC	- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
DLEU	- Drug Law Enforcement Unit
DRC	- Democratic Republic of Congo
DV	- Domestic Violence
DWA	- Department of Women's Affairs
EAC	- East African Community
FBI	- Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBO	- Faith Based Organization
GAD	- Gender and Development
GBV	- Gender-Based Violence
GC	- Gender Commission
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
GFP	- Gender Focal Points
GNCC	- Gender Network Coordinating Committee
GRN	- Government of the Republic of Namibia
GSC	- Gender Sectoral Committee
GSWA	- German South West Africa
HDI	- Human Development Index
HDR	- Human Development Report
HIPC	- Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HIV/AIDS	- Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HSLM	- Household Subsistence Level Measure
LA	- Labour Act
LAC	- Legal Assistance Centre

LaRRI - Labour Resource and Research Institute

LGBTI - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Intersex Project

ILO - International Labour Organization

IMF - International Monetary Fund

INTERPOL - International Criminal Police Organization

IOM - International Organization for Migration

ISS - Institute for Security Studies

IWD - International Women's Day

MAPODE - Movement of Community Action for the Prevention and Protection of Young People against Poverty, Destitution, Diseases and Exploitation

MDGs - Millennium Development Goals

MOLSS - Ministry of Labour and Social Services

MGECW - Ministries of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

NAMCOL - Namibia Centre for Open Learning

NAMTAX - Namibia Tax Consortium

NASOMA - The Namibia Social Marketing Association

NCAS - Namibia Child Activities Survey

NDF - Namibia Defence Forces

NGP - National Gender Policy

NGDP - National Gross Development Product

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

NID - Namibia Institute for Democracy

NPC - National Planning Commission

OMCTIP - Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

OVC - Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PCPCMIP - Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

PiN - People in Need

POCA - Prevention of Organized Crime Act

PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

PSCU - Police Serious Crime Unit

SANTAC - Southern African Campaign against the Abuse and Trafficking of Children for Commercial Exploitation Purposes

SAFAIDS - Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service

SAP - Structural Adjustment Programme

SARPACCO - Southern African Regional Police Chiefs' Organisation

SFF - Special Field Force

ST - Sex Trafficking

STD - Sexually Transmitted Diseases

SWA - South West Africa

TDH - Terre des Homes

TIP - Trafficking in Persons

TRC - Teachers' Resource Centre

TRP - The Rainbow Project of Namibia

UNFPA - United Nation Population Fund

UNAIDS - UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNAM - University of Namibia

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNODC - United Nations Organization against Drugs and Crime

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF - United Nations International Children's Educational Fund

UNISA - University of South Africa

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UCT - University of Cape Town

VCT - Voluntary, Counselling and Testing

WAD - Women's Action for Development

WB - World Bank

WCPU - Women and Child Protection Unit

WHO - World Health Organization

WID - Women in Development

WTO - World Trade Organization

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and Justification of the Study

The Annual Report on Human Trafficking published by US Department of State (CTIP 2006) reveal that human trafficking has become 21st century daunting problems. The report which documented the phenomenon of human trafficking globally in terms of labour and exploitation state that although slave trade¹ was outlawed² two centuries ago³, it has, over the past decade, resurfaced to epidemic levels. This assessment is confirmed by Dottridge (2004:19) who suggests that contemporary human trafficking which aims at the exploitation of both human labour and sexuality has become the World's second most profitable business after the trade in small arms, fetching an estimated global annual revenue market of some US\$42billion. It is reiterated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO 2005) which holds that trafficking in persons as 'an increasing global scourge affects all sectors in society' to which approximately 2.5 million people annually fall victims.

Earlier CTIP reports (2004, 2005) had highlighted the precarious nature of 21st century human trafficking trends both which indicated that of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 trans-nationally trafficked victims approximately 80 per cent were women and girls. The majority, 50 per cent, were children, who were subject to commercial sexual exploitation. All existing CTIP Reports (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008) acknowledge that human trafficking, particularly for sexual

¹During the late 1700s, English traders were annually raiding, capturing and shipping across the Atlantic Ocean between 35,000 and 50,000 African slaves for sell into labour slavery in the Western hemisphere. The famed British slave trade abolition politician William Wilberforce estimated that out of the 600 human-cargo on any single ship that sailed from the West African coast of the Gulf of Guinea, only 200 lived to see land again. The rest perished in the high seas from sexual abuse and rape, torture, hunger, exposure, exhaustion and diseases.

²On 26 July 1833, the British House of Commons passed a bill of parliament that abolished slave trade in all its colonies.

³<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/131christians/activists/wilberforce.html> downloaded on 28 February 2010 at 0800 hours

exploitation purposes, has become a social issue of great concern in the Southern African region, including Namibia.

The above information serves to reinforce research findings of other Sub-Saharan Africa regional and international development organisations and agencies that include but are not limited to End Child Prostitution and Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (ECPAT 2006); International Organization for Migration (IOM 2003:135); Innocenti Insight (UNICEF 2003:6); TDH Germany (TDH 2004); UNESCO (2005); and Council of Europe (www.humantraffickinginsearch.net/), all which acknowledge that human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation purposes, has become a social issue of great concern in the Southern African region, including Namibia.

At SADC levels, these international reports are corroborated by research conducted by several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). They include Molo Songololo (2000:100) in South Africa; MAPODE (2002:135) in Zambia; Centre for African Studies (SNJ) in Mozambique (2005:171-246); CONNECT (1999:20) in Zimbabwe; and Southern African Network against the Abuse and Trafficking of Children (SANTAC: 2007) all which point to a link between human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, adolescents and women.

Allais (2006:3) attributes trafficking in persons in the region to its prolonged wars and conflicts, natural disasters, food crises, which, he maintains, impede the social and economic empowerment of people living in vulnerable situations. He further argues that the region's widespread cultural sexualisation contributes to the disempowerment of the majority of the region's girls and women, who subsequently fall victims to the region's high unemployment and HIV and AIDS which averages between 20 and 40% and orphan-hood (Allais 2006:3).

USA Department of State's 2008 Annual Report classified Namibia as a 'special case'. This was on the basis that whereas Namibia was strongly suspected to be a source, transit and destination country of human trafficking, this information remained unsubstantiated by reliable reporting and/or empirical research.⁴

This concern was, on 12 December 2008,⁵ reiterated by Immigration Officer Rebekka Hangada, who expressed worry that human trafficking has become increasingly prevalent in Namibia, with an increasing number of people caught trying to leave Africa through Namibia and South Africa. Hangada was testifying in Namibia's first ever suspected human trafficking case in Katutura Magistrate Court in Windhoek involving two Tanzanian nationals, a man and his wife, who had been arrested at Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport on suspicion of attempting to traffick a 33-year old Kenyan national of Somali origin and 'her' two children aged 6 and 4 years to the United Kingdom (UK) for unspecified purposes. The group which had travelled from Tanzania via Zambia and Johannesburg to Namibia were all travelling on forged Irish Passports.¹ The Somali woman told the Court that she had paid US\$13,000 for her passport together with those of her 'supposed' two children.⁶

Both CTIP 2008 Report and Hangada's fears reinforced earlier indicators of the existence of trafficking for sexual exploitation in Namibia. They included a local newspaper report⁷ which had stated that 10 young Namibian women had been part of 188 foreign prostitutes aged between

⁴USA Department of State. 4 June 2008. Trafficking in Persons Report Special Cases - Namibia. UNHCR Refworld: New York.

⁵Denver, Isaacs: 'Change of Fortunes for Somali Woman.' The Namibian, Friday December 12 2003:3. Windhoek.

⁶Due to lack of legislation to try a case of human trafficking in a Court of Law in Namibia at the time, the group was charged for contravening immigration laws and fined N\$2,000 each. The two Tanzanian nationals were deported back to Tanzania while the multi-national woman and her children remained in Windhoek Central Prison pending authorities' determination which country to deport them to.

⁷Staff Reporter. 'Namibian girls sold in the UK.' Informante, 12 October 2006:2. Windhoek.

14 and 25 years a British Home Office rescue operation coded 'Pentameter' had freed from various London brothels, massage parlours and private homes since February 2009 where sex traders had sold them for approximately 3,000 British Pounds each.

The possibility that young Namibian girls and women were being trafficked into present-day global sex industry was reiterated by the 2008 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Report⁸ which quoted an Irish Times Newspaper article dated 3 December 2008⁹ to the effect that a young Namibian woman was among 7 Brazilian and Nigerian victims of trafficking rescued by a combined Irish and British Police Operation.¹⁰

This study thus, investigated the existence, prevalence and causes of trafficking for sexual exploitation in Namibia, as well as its impact and effects on both its victims and society as a whole. Due to the complexity and dangerous nature of the topic of study, the researcher utilised a unique method in which she identified and capacitated specific members of the study's target group to lead her into areas which would otherwise be too difficult for her to reach and involved them in data collection.

1.2. Sex Trafficking Concepts and Operational Definitions

The study, subsequently, adopted and interrogated the three key concepts, namely, trafficking, prostitution and Sexual Exploitation within the realms of the social structures of Namibia and the day-to-day realities of the lives of individual and groups of people who happen to experience and

⁸M2 Presswire. 'International Human Trafficking Prostitution Ring Smashed'. M2 Communications UK Government, 1994-2008. London.

⁹The Irish Serious Organized Crime Agency (PSNI) and UK Border Agency Police Operation dubbed 'Pentameter 2' was launched by PSNI, A Garda Siochana, Dyfed Powys Police and UK Border Agency

¹⁰Siobhan Tanner. 'To Catch a Trafficker.' <http://www.ruhama.ie/> downloaded on 11 December 2008.

live those realities. For its theoretical framework, it adopted four sociological approaches, namely: 1. Social Formation,

2. Societies in Transition,

3. Class Struggle Theory,

4. The emergence of 'Underclass' as a social group; and

5. Conflict Theory of Deviant Behaviour.

The study also rested on the following three distinct precepts as advanced by the United Nations Organisation against Drugs and Crime (UNODC 2007:3) to constitute the act of trafficking in persons:

1. Constitutive terms in the act of trafficking in persons, otherwise known as human trafficking) constitutes the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and receipt of persons;

2. Intent terms which refer to sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, servitude and/or the removal of organ; and

3. Descriptive activity of an organized criminal group.

Thus, these concepts and their definitions guided the author's efforts to explore, discuss and position sex trafficking as a social activity in the contemporary Namibian society:

Trafficking - The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children popularly referred to as the Palermo Protocol (UNGAS 2000:55/25)¹¹ defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of

¹¹The protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children is a supplement to the UN convention against transnational Organized Crime. It was adopted by the United National General Assembly (UNGAS) Resolution 55/25 of 14 November 2000 and entered into force on 25 December 2003. By August 2007, it had 117 signatories and 114 parties. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the guardian and custodian of the protocol.

persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefit to achieve the consent¹² of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

The United Nations Organization against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) sums human trafficking as ‘the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them’¹³ and dissects the process of human trafficking into three constituent elements UNODC 2007:3), namely:-

a) **The criminal acts of:**

- (i) **Recruitment** - or mobilizing by persuading, tricking and/or falsely convincing (targeted trafficking victims)
- (ii) **Harbouring** - or keeping or trapping the trafficking victims in isolation to disorient them and render them defenceless, ultimately rendering them susceptible to exploitation;
- (iii) **Transfer** - taking or moving trafficking victims from the comfort and safety of their homes or familiar environments to locations or countries they are not familiar with which might also be insecure;
- (iv) **Transportation** - the movement of trafficked persons by vehicles, aircrafts or boats to the trafficking destination; and
- (v) **Receipt** - of trafficked victims at the goal or destination point.

¹²Article 3(d) of Palermo Protocol renders consent inapplicable in the case of children below the age of 18-years in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

¹³ UNODC on human trafficking and migrant smuggling on <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html> downloaded on 27 July 2009

b) The means - used or applied to commit the trafficking crime, in other words, to secure the willingness, acceptance, collaboration, cooperation and conformity of the targeted trafficking victims. They include threats, force, coercion, fraud, deception, power and control; and

c) The reasons - why the desired purpose and/or goal both the action and the means of the intended crime is conducted. UNICEF (2006:2) asserts that such purpose usually takes some form of exploitation including sexual exploitation, forced or bonded labour or service delivery in the form of slavery, servitude, debt bondage and the removal organs.

This categorization implies that in order for human trafficking to take place, three acts must occur, namely:

- 1) Trafficker(s) facilitate illegal recruitment, movement and transportation and transfer of a person;
- 2) Traffickers apply trickery, deceptive and/or coercive language and actions; and
- 3) The trafficked person is utilised in an exploitative way.

In this context, trafficking in persons, involves the illegal transportation and sale of people both across borders and within countries specifically for exploitation purposes. Dottridge (2004:16) concludes that trafficking in persons is inevitably the ‘down- side’ of something much larger, namely, ‘illegal migration’.

Anti-Slavery International (2007:1) classifies trafficking in persons as ‘a secret and concealed phenomenon whose movement of people involves violence, threats, and other forms of deception and/or coercion for the purpose of forced labour, servitude or slavery-like-practices’. This notion was accentuated by the former US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice (TIP 2003:7),

who described trafficking in persons as, ‘nothing less than a modern form of slavery whose traffickers prey on the most vulnerable and turn a commercial profit at the expense of innocent lives’. It was emphasized by Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference Parliamentary Liaison Office which concluded that, ‘there can be no doubt that the trafficking of women is a criminal phenomenon that violates basic human rights and spiritually and materially destroys human lives’. It is from this perspective that for the purposes of this study, therefore, human trafficking shall simply mean:

‘The act of taking a person from one place to another by others for intentions other than stated or agreed upon in connection with sex trafficking and sexual exploitation’.

Prostitution - Giddens (2005:133) defines prostitution as ‘the granting of sexual favours for monetary gain’ which, like all other present-day social activities, borrows its emergence, growth and survival from social formation trends. He argues that the modernization of feudal societies that culminated in the 19th century industrial revolution and precipitated the emergence of the capitalist mode of production did not only dramatically impact on people’s collective and individual lifestyles but inevitably altered their social behaviour patterns and sexuality. This argument rests on the premise that capitalism which was characterized by rapid social, economic and political changes inevitably required to optimize human labour in order to revolutionise social organization from casual to orderly and bureaucratic processes.

It is in this regard that Scott and Marshall (1994:529) assert that the ‘provision of sexual favours for financial reward has been institutionalized in the form of sex work in every society that has had a coinage. Furthermore, they maintain that the number of sex workers increases when there are fewer other job opportunities for women, and that inevitably, their international movements

are nearly always from poor countries to richer ones’.

Giddens (2001:134) identifies four types of prostitutes, namely: a street walker who solicits her business on the streets; a call girl who solicits her sex customers over the phone and either receives them in her dwelling place or goes to their own places; a house prostitute who operates in a private place such as a brothel or club; and a massage parlour prostitute who operates in an established place where she provides her clients with her sex services through the parlour structure and its operators.

Hodson (2002:55) categorizes prostitution among ‘illegal goods and services’ that remains with very little useful information of their production’. In other words, whereas prostitution, just like any other illegal activities such as gambling, courier and sale of illegal drugs and weapons under the auspices of gangsterism affects millions of people’s lives, it remain largely invisible and obscure. It is from this perspective that Giddens (2001:134) emphasizes that in modern times, sex vendors and their clients are mostly unknown to one another, a feature that renders prostitution, in the main, an underground activity whose victims are not only exploited but socially isolated and alienated, and consequently, discriminated and stigmatized.

It was in this connection that in 1949 (Lois Law. 2009:3), the International Community, through the United Nations system classified prostitution as ‘incompatible with human dignity’. They subsequently demanded that all its member states should punish all those people who facilitate it including pimps and brothel owners and operators, and to abolish all special treatment or registration of prostitution.

However, it is noteworthy that the 1949 UN Convention on prostitution yielded little or no positive impact. This was primarily because the UN member countries became selective in their approaches to prostitution and in so doing, ignored the role beneficiaries of prostitution in the form of its customers who purchase sex services; pimps who prostitute prostitutes; and brothel owners and operators who profit by exploiting prostitutes play, opting to, instead, focus on prostitutes as criminals.

Indeed, despite such determined international efforts to halt prostitution trends, many decades on, nothing much has changed. In fact in its submission to the Southern African Law Reform Commission Adult Prostitution, the office of the Liaison Office of Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference notes that recent years have witnessed dramatically increasing numbers of women and children in street prostitution throughout the World. The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (PCPCMIP, 2009) attributes this increase to the unjust complex economic systems which drives women and children into prostitution in order to have sufficient means of living for themselves and/or their families. They also add that often times, for social and cultural reasons, women are forced to search for a father-figure or a loving relationship with a man they don't necessarily know, while others, are yet trapped in the struggle to pay off unreasonable debts. The Council concludes that sexual exploitation to-date pervades the world's social fabric and that prostitution itself has become a form of modern-day-slavery whose ultimate result is pathological violence and/or sexual abuse.

Consequently, the Bishops do not share and see the moral logic in the argument that since prostitution remains 'the oldest profession on planet earth', it is impossible to eliminate and therefore must be legalized as a viable human economic business. In the words of University of

British Columbia Law Professor Ben Perrin, they uphold that if prostitution must be labelled ‘the world’s oldest profession’, it follows that it must equally be labelled ‘the world’s oldest and saddest oppressor’.

Given what the Bishops characterise as the ‘exploitative nature of the prostitution trade and its close links to vulnerability to sex trafficking’, they challenge the argument that legalized prostitution will ‘facilitate easier access to health facilities and other social services including law enforcement’. Consequently, neither do they (Bishops) buy into the argument that legalized prostitution will help counter and/or curb the criminal act of sex trafficking, since, in their considered opinion, ‘the first cause of the trafficking in women for prostitution, is prostitution itself’. Indeed, it is from this point of view that this thesis approaches prostitution and sex trafficking as present day social phenomenon.

Exploitation - In its definition of trafficking in persons, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (IOM 2009:7) adds that exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.¹⁴

The Protocol further classifies exploitation (IOM 2009:7) as a social or institutional relationship in which one person benefits at the expense of the other through an imbalance in power in which individuals may be exploited in a variety of ways, the most common of which, is the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation.

¹⁴IOM. 2009:7. Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers. Geneva.IOM.

Okin (1989:133-5) substantiates this position when he states that ‘the pivot of a societal system of gender renders women vulnerable to dependency, exploitation and abuse’. He clarifies that ultimately that type of institutional relationship forces people to other forms of sexual exploitation, labour, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs for sale. To this list UNICEF (2006:2) adds trafficking for illicit international adoption, early marriage, child soldiers, street beggars, sports (child camel jockeys or football players), and in some cases, even for religious cults.

The Council of Europe upholds that because the recruitment of trafficking victims involves coercion, deception, fraud, abuse of power, or outright abduction, other than economic leverage such as debt bondage to induce consent to exploitation, victims face threats and violence. This link between the trafficking perpetrators, their recruitment methods and the intent of their actions, therefore, guided this researcher in her efforts to identify the connection between trafficking, prostitution and exploitation in this thesis.

Symbiosis - In this study, symbiosis means ‘a mutually beneficial relationship between two species’.

1.3. Statement of the Problem

This study identifies the following issues that warrant research of sex trafficking in Namibia:

Lack of Adequate Evidence of Trafficking in Persons in Namibia - The US

Department of State (CTIP Report 2008)¹⁵ found that whereas trafficking in persons was suspected to be prevalent in Namibia, by far it remained officially unreported and unsubstantiated and subsequently classified Namibia as a Special Case. The report which annually evaluates the commitment and effectiveness of countries in their response to anti-trafficking standards set forth in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, further found that the largest percentage of trafficking victims were children trafficked into prostitution. Subsequently, the 2009 TIP report¹⁶ categorized Namibia under Tier 2 Watch List which comprises countries that:

- 1) Have a significant number of trafficking victims or a significantly increasing population of victims;
2. Have not made increasing efforts to combat human trafficking over the past year; or
- 3) Are making significant efforts based on commitments of anti-trafficking reform over the next years.

Although the above literature suggests that there exist sufficient indications that Namibia is affected by the regional network of trafficking in persons, it was nonetheless clear to the researcher that not much was known about the prevalence, extent, degree and impact of human trafficking and its link to exploitation, especially, sexual exploitation. For examples, with the exception of Kiremire (2002) who found that Namibia, through Katima Mulilo exit point served as a destination country, other studies conducted on human trafficking in Namibia's

¹⁵Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report: June 2008, SPECIAL CASES: NAMIBIA, PG. 274-275, online at: www.state.gov/g/tip.

¹⁶The ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report on <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009> downloaded on 23 June 2009

neighbouring countries of Mozambique (Joao Gabriel de Barros and Gulamo Taju: 1999), South Africa (Legget: 2004; Pharaoh: 2006 and Molo Songololo: 2000 and 2002), Zimbabwe (CONNECT: 2002) and Zambia (Fisher: 2003) made no mention of Namibia

However, it is important to note that Namibia's National Strategic Plan cautions against the possibility of harnessing the type of development that 'undermines the country's future potential and life support systems. Indeed, the Plan which clearly demonstrates the country's determination to confront all possible social and economic vulnerability emphasizes the need to build national and local capital' at all levels of human endeavour including human and social capital. It is thus correct to assume that the social and economic vulnerability the national economic plan (Vision 2030) makes reference to would include human trafficking and sexual exploitation (prostitution).

Against this background, it is noteworthy, that the candidate's efforts to locate empirical studies on trafficking prostitutes for sexual exploitation in Namibia were not successful. It appeared to her, that no empirical studies to establish the prevalence, extent, causes and effects of trafficking in persons for exploitation (prostitution) purposes in Namibia has been carried out yet.

This background formed the candidate's basis for a detailed sociological investigation to establish the existence, the root causes, the extent and the impact of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons and its link to sex trafficking. It is this glaring gap that this study sought to contribute towards filling.

Contradictory Research Findings - A baseline study on sexual exploitation and women and child trafficking at the border town of Oshikango (Sechogele 2008:17) states that it did not

gather statistical data on trafficking of women and children.¹⁷ It further states that it was unable to interview any person who had been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, or who were in any form of exploitative employment, be it commercial sex workers or otherwise. Ironically, the report goes on to state that it found sufficient evidence to suggest that human trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes occurs in Namibia.

The Disconnect between Social and Economic Mobility, Sexual

Exploitation and the Spread of the HI Virus - The need for research to establish the existence of human trafficking in the country, and its link to sexual exploitation, is underscored by the fact that the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), through its Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Joel Kaapanda maintains that there exists a strong link between sexual exploitation (prostitution), social and economic mobility, and the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country (Sibeene, 2006). This assertion is substantiated by informal statistics by Stand Together, a Catholic Mission project, which indicated that 74% of the close to 12,500 prostitutes it has been reaching out to in Windhoek for the last 15 years, tested HIV positive (SPACE Magazine, June 2006).

Lack of Adequate Legislation - A further problem relates to lack of a comprehensive legislation to counter human trafficking, punish trafficking perpetrators and protect their victims.

Thus, whereas US TIP Report for 2008 found that Namibia has, through the existence of the

¹⁷Police, Immigration officials and Constituency Councillor are reported to have informed the Sechogele research team that they had no record of cases of trafficked individuals at the Oshikango border post and that people caught at the border or inside Namibia without valid travel documents and visas were treated as illegal immigrants, and instantly deported. More complicated cases are taken to the immigration tribunal or to the magistrate courts for hearings before deportations or liberty to leave the country within 48 hours.

‘Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) of 2004’,¹⁸ relevant and specific legislation to counter and punish human trafficking perpetrators, contrary to the provisions of the Palermo Protocol, neither does POCA make any reference to children nor victim protections.

In addition, apart from the fact that the country still has neither a national policy on trafficking in persons, nor a framework on compilation of UN report, the application of the Palermo Protocol provisions themselves remain challenging as POCA in its present state places responsibility on the receiving country rather than the sending country.

This is a critical observation in view of the fact that the Namibian Constitution (NID 2002:7) prohibits slavery, kidnapping, forced labour, forced prostitution, child labour and smuggling of aliens. In addition, Namibia has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

It is however noteworthy, that this situation is not unique to Namibia. Most sources on human trafficking in Africa point to a blatant lack of adequate laws to protect victims of trafficking and/or to prosecute its perpetrators. For instance, MAPODE (2002:66) highlights the fact that although most African countries (including Namibia) ratified almost all the regional and international human rights conventions, most of these laws are yet to be translated into local laws. These include the African Charter on Peoples’ Rights and Welfare (OAU 1963), the Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (AU 1999), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNGAS 1945), the Conventions on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW 1989), the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNGAS 44/25. 1989), ILO Convention No. 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO

¹⁸POCA came into force on 5 May 2009.

1999), the Palermo Protocol (UNGAS 2000) and many others. They cannot, therefore, protect children and young girls and women at local level. Such protection would only be possible within the jurisdiction of the African and the International Courts of Justice. It is in this respect that Gloria Ganyani (2008)¹⁹ argues that whereas SADC 2005 Gender and Development Audit showed that the sub-region had made considerable progress since the signing the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, there none-the-less remained some serious gaps that needed specific protections.

1.4. Objective of the Study

The overall objective of the Study was to investigate the existence and prevalence of trafficking for sexual exploitation in Namibia, establish its extent, causes, and impact on both its victims and society as a whole, and provide research-informed recommendations for both prevention and protection interventions.

In so doing, the study attempted to establish and substantiate the following:

1. The level to which the Namibian society understands trafficking in persons as a contemporary social and economic activity;
2. Whether or not prostitutes are particularly targeted for trafficking for sexual activities in and out of Namibia;
3. The prevalence, extent and impact of such trends;
4. Its root causes;

¹⁹Gloria Ganyani. 2008. SADC Protocol on Gender: What's in it for the media? Harare. Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service Media Unit (SAFAIDS)

5. Possible effects on its victims, in terms of physical, mental and psychological well-being, including their social and economic status with particular reference to accessibility to or lack of life-saving opportunities in the context of human development theories;
6. Possible consequences in terms of risky behaviour, with particular reference to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV;
7. The sociological framework necessary to inform the development of an adequate legal/policy-frame-work on sex trafficking and prostitution; and
8. Ways of controlling or halting trafficking in persons for prostitution purposes in Namibia.

1.5. The Importance of the Study

The need for such was study was motivated by recent increased awareness among local, regional and international development agencies on the importance of empirical research to inform government policy formulation, legal reforms, and development programmes planning, design and implementation. This approach to development work is believed to accelerate effective and sustainable service delivery that lead to improved communities quality of life generally. The importance of this study, therefore, rests on the wealth of new information it generated through its findings and conclusions which did not only serve to identify existing information but the gaps it served to fill.

For example, whereas currently existing legislation makes prostitution illegal, there is no specific legislation to prosecute it. Similarly, while ‘soliciting’ for sexual services is not limited to any specific gender, in practice it is only vendors of prostitution, who are mainly females, that the Municipality regulation targets, and hardly ever, prostitution customers who are mainly males.

In the same vein, while trafficking in persons (TIP) is internationally and locally classified as a crime and Namibia has a law that could prosecute its perpetrators, the current law, the Prevention of Organized Crime Act No. 29 of 2004 which only became operational on 5 May, 2009, remains inadequate as it omits mention of trafficking victims. By so doing, it, in effect, renders victims of trafficking in persons in Namibia defenceless. Ironically, none of the other existing common laws are adequate enough to address sex trafficking.

On the other hand, while Article No. 144 of the Namibian Constitution provides for direct application of the international laws at State Party level, and therefore, Namibia is assumed able to directly apply the international law to prosecute trafficking perpetrators, it is important to note that none of the international conventions include punitive clauses. Consequently, it would be practically impossible to implement such international conventions at the local level outside existing local legislative, judicial and administrative mechanisms.

It is equally important to note that despite the existence of the Employment Act no. 29 of 1998 which promotes affirmative action as a means of eliminating social and economic disparities, inequality in Namibia remains a major problem. The majority of the population, close to 95%, still face discrimination in terms of access to property, employment and health. This might explain the fact that of the 230 respondents of this research sample, only 1 was from the previously advantaged social group.

It is in this respect that at practical level this study maps out possible prevention, protection and practical care and support service delivery intervention measures for key stakeholders in the area of social vulnerability to poverty, destitution, diseases (STDs/HIV-AIDS and exploitation such as social and health workers, civil society and faith-based organisations (FBO) who are usually

responsible for implementing community-based women, youth and child focussed programmes and activities.

In addition, the study hopes to contribute towards some policy and legislative recommendations for possible implementation by the appropriate government agencies in Namibia.

1.6. The Main Question of the Study

The study begged answers to the following key question:

‘Is sexual exploitation in the form of prostitution linked to trafficking in persons in Namibia?’

Answers to this question were derived from the following sub questions:

2. Are children, adolescents and women trafficked for prostitution in Namibia?
3. Are they trafficked outside the Namibian borders?
4. Who are the traffickers?
5. Sociologically speaking, which other actors, are involved in the sex commercialization?
6. What are the key triggers of sex-trafficking?
7. Is sex trafficking structurally, culturally or economically imbedded?
8. What consequences do sex trafficking victims suffer, if any?
9. Is sex-trafficking an economically viable business venture?
10. Do victims of sex trafficking enjoy any social and legal protections?
11. If trafficking of prostitute women and young adolescents for further sexual purposes exists in Namibia, and breeds negative social and physical consequences on its victims and society

as a whole, what could be done to halt and prevent it, and what kind of support can be extended to those already affected to recover?

This researcher hoped that answers to these questions would contribute towards informing trafficking, prostitution and social and economic exploitation focused national policies, laws and intervention programmes.

1.7. Working Hypotheses

This study of sex trafficking adopted six different hypotheses:

1. Sex trafficking is embedded in social, economic and gender inequality characteristic of the capitalist mode of production in which the strongest survive and the weakest fall into its new 'underclass';
2. Sex trafficking is closely associated with prostitution, sexual exploitation and physical and health dangers;
3. Women, young adolescents and children involved in prostitution become easy victims of sex trafficking;
4. Targeting prostitutes as the key subjects of the research provides a lead to human trafficking in general and to traffickers in particular;
5. In the eyes of society, people, particularly females, who become victims of sex trafficking for sexual exploitation are deviants who fail to manage their lives within the complex societal context of combined traditional African elements and modern capitalist circumstances; and
6. Adequate legal frameworks will curb trafficking for sexual exploitation.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided in six chapters. **Chapter one** provides a general introduction to the research topic, the statement of the problem, objectives, rationale and hypotheses of the study, as well as the organisation of the thesis; while **Chapter two** discusses the trafficking for sexual exploitation in and out of Namibia in terms of national social and economic dynamics and constitutional rights and privileges within the context of available literature at local, sub-regional, regional and international levels, and the sociological conceptualization and theoretical framework.

In this context, efforts were made to examine sex trafficking, prostitution and exploitation in terms of available life-opportunities and strategies for general improved quality of life. In this respect, particular focus was made to issues relating to policy protections, including national policies on the family, youth, education and gender. Special attention was given to legislative rights and protections and their relationships to social and economic vulnerability to trafficking for exploitation purposes in terms of general lack of adequate access to education including school-drop-out and unemployment rates. Thus, this chapter also attempts to determine as to whether or not the non-availability of such rights, privileges and protections contribute to the vulnerability of prostitutes to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

Chapter three provides an insight into the research design and methodology. It gives a detailed description of the research population, including data collection instruments, piloting and analysis techniques, as well as reference to the limitations of the study.

Chapter four presents the results of the study. In this regard, it highlights the status of the trafficking of prostitutes for commercial sexual exploitation in Namibia within the context of

human development theories, as well as national, regional and international legal protections. This Chapter also presents the conclusions of the study.

Chapter five discusses and interprets the results of the study in the context of sociological thought and theoretical frame in relation to the overall and sub-questions of the research. Furthermore, the chapter compares these findings to the findings of other related studies on the subject, as well as their practical application. It also reaches conclusions.

The chapter finally provides suggestions and recommendations for practical interventions at policy, legislative and intervention levels as well as for future research.

Lastly, the researcher provides a list of appendices in which she provides detailed data tools including the quantitative questionnaire, and questions for the qualitative data in the form of case studies, key informants and focus groups discussion meetings. It also provides a list of the sources consulted and cited.

CHAPTER 2: EXPLORATION OF LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

Vision 2030 (GRN 2004:32), Namibia's policy blue print to social, economic development and technological advancement over the next two decades envisages 3 major challenges the country faces in its efforts to ensure improved quality of life for all its citizens, namely to:

1. Ensure it achieves real benefits for its people which spread equitably across the whole society;
2. Ensure development does not undermine the country's future potential and life-support system rather than building national and local capital at three levels of economic and financial capital, human and social capital, ecological and environmental capital; and
3. Make optimal efficient use of its resources, opportunities and comparative advantages both in the short and the long-term.

In essence Vision 2030 spells out Namibia's determination to be a prosperous industrialized nation. The Governor of the Bank Namibia (BON), Mr. T.K. Alweendo²⁰ interprets this noble national goal and strategy to mean that in 20 years' time, Namibia will be an upper income, peaceful and politically stable nation with a per capita income of a minimum of US\$17,000 and unemployment rate of less than 5%.

It is against this background that this chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the status Namibia's social, economic, political and cultural advancement in relation to its overall aspirations for improved quality of life of its people with particular reference to the prevention and protection of its women, young adolescents and children from trafficking for sexual exploitation.

²⁰Staff Reporter. 'Annual Address of Mr. T.K. Alweendo, Governor of the Bank of Namibia.' The Namibian, Friday 13 November 2009:20. Windhoek.

In so doing, the research provides an analysis of relevant prevention and protection policy and legislative frameworks as well as service delivery mechanisms to counter sex trafficking within national, regional and international obligations and responsibilities. It also identifies existing gaps and endeavours to contribute some recommendations and suggestions on how to fill them.

2.2. History, Prevalence and Causes of Human Trafficking

Northrup (2002:95) submits that trafficking persons, as an exploitative economic activity, is an old phenomenon practiced in many countries of the world. The period between the centuries 15th and the 19th was notorious as it span four centuries of a ‘holocaust’ or ‘great disaster’ with an estimated 25-40 million slaves shipped from Africa and other continents to the ‘New World’ amidst immense human suffering. The result was that approximately 12 million Africans were recruited from their homes through coercion or outright capture and sold as slaves (Northrup 2002:95).

Although slave trade was outlawed two centuries ago,²¹ US Government annual reports highlight the fact that in recent decades, human trafficking has resurfaced to become the World’s second most profitable business after the trade in small arms, generating an estimated annual turnover of approximately US\$12billion (CTIP 2004/2005). Subsequent reports (CTIP 2006:4) showed that, not only had the numbers of trafficking victims escalated to a colossal 12-27 million people already trapped in bonded labour, forced child labour, and sexual servitude but that many of them were being trafficked within their own countries.

²¹www.wilberforce2007.com

According to UNICEF (May 2006:1), while the clandestine nature of trafficking and the lack of strong data collection make it difficult to establish the global number of trafficking victims, an estimated 1.2 million young people are annually trafficked worldwide. However, CTIP (2005:1) estimates that every year, between 800,000 and 900,000 people are trafficked across international borders, with millions more trafficked internally mainly into sexual exploitation in the form of prostitution, illicit drug couriership and removal and sale of human organs. A United Nations (UN) report entitled *Abolishing Slavery and Its Contemporary Forms* (Dottridge 2004:19) equates contemporary human trafficking whose global routes are indicated in the map below to 19th Century slave trade.



Map 2: Global Routes of Sex Trafficking (Dottridge 2004.22)

Johnathan Clayton²² emphasizes UN's position when he proposes that whereas the purposes for which human beings may be trafficked may vary, the main ones are primarily sexual exploitation (prostitution), closely followed by slave labour, servitude, forced marriages, adoption, removal of organs or other body parts for trade or medicinal purposes, or couriering of illicit drugs and/or other illegal commodities. He cites the following case of Nigerian teenage girls:

'Teenage girls are Nigeria's latest export, often sent by their own families. Trafficking in people is a lucrative business. A young girl bought for as little as R125 can be sold for about R2500 with the result that human trafficking is now believed to be the World's 21st century most lucrative trade, far overriding the small arms trade which dominated the 20th century with an estimated colossal annual market value in excess of SAR65billion.'²³

In their exploration of the impact and effects of trafficking on its victims, IOM (EYE: 2008:3) positions the phenomenon of human trafficking within the context of insecure migration. They explain that the action of trafficking a person removes such a person from the safety and comfort of their home, communities or countries, away from their natural social support structure that includes family and friends, religious institutions and other sources of protection and support, to unfamiliar destinations where they are left isolated, disoriented, defenceless, dependent on their traffickers and susceptible to exploitation. IOM's position is reiterated by Farley (2008:64) who adds that females, young and old, internally and internationally trafficked into the sex trade industry experience extreme fear, guilt regarding behaviours which may run counter to their religious or cultural beliefs, self-blame and a sense of betrayal. Such distress may be directed at

²²Johnathan Clayton. 'Teenage girls are Nigeria's latest export.' THISDAY, Monday April 19 2004:8. Johannesburg

²³Johnathan Clayton. 'Teenage girls are Nigeria's latest export.' THISDAY Features: Monday, February April 19 2004:8. Johannesburg.

their family members, pimps, pimps and governments, and is likely to result in post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) conditions.

2.3. The Link between Trafficking, Prostitution and Exploitation

Palermo Protocol, Giddens, IOM, Okin and UNICEF's positions are corroborated by the US Government's Department of State's annual reports (TIP 2004, 2005 and 2006) which established that the majority, 80 per cent, of the people trafficked beyond their national border were women and girls trafficked into the global sex industry, 50 per cent of whom were children.

What this means is that while on the surface the trade in persons looks haphazard and uncoordinated, mainly, because of the small numbers of people moved at a given time, it none the less belies the extent of a huge worldwide network such shipments service. Ultimately, trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation are all illegal underground activities the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference Parliamentary Liaison Office has classified as acts of violence that constitute offences to human dignity and integrity, that gravely violate basic human rights.²⁴ Masika (2002) emphasizes that human trafficking in contemporary period is closely related to gender-based discrimination and slavery.

Indeed, it is this criminality that both the operators and victims of prostitution and trafficking have in common; the one operators of trafficking use to intimidate and control their victims. Inevitably it is such mechanisms that make penetrating both activities for research purposes extremely difficult. In this respect, the strategy of researching prostitution by using former

²⁴2009 Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference Parliamentary Liaison Office 2009 paper on Adult Prostitution submitted to the South African Law Reform Commission.

prostitutes facilitates a greater insight into prostitution itself and the possibility trafficking of prostitutes for sexual exploitation. Conversely, it makes it possible to reach formerly trafficked persons and subsequently, get a closer glimpse into the phenomenon of trafficking in persons itself.

It is because of this connection that throughout this thesis, the author attempts to capture and analyse the relationship between the above three related social elements (trafficking, prostitution and exploitation), their prevalence, the manner in which society perceives and treats them and how they affect those who encounter them as well as society as a whole.

Baker (2001:3) identifies four forms of sexual exploitation:

1. The sale of children into the sex industry through organized networks within and across countries;
2. Sexual abuse by children's employers or fellow workers;
3. Payment in cash or kind for sex with tourists or development workers, many of whom are part of large paedophilia networks; and
4. Demands for sexual favours with rewards, or through coercion by teachers, family members, social workers, or by strangers who entice children through the internet.

From a human rights perspective Dottridge (2004:19) identifies a wide range of initiatives against child trafficking, mainly by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including research and investigations, public sensitization and awareness building campaigns, prevention strategies, and recovery and rehabilitation programmes. Baker (2001:3) provides guidelines for action to

eliminate the worst forms of child labour in accordance with International Labour Organization's Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour No.182 of 1999.

2.4. Consequences of Trafficking, Prostitution and Exploitation in Africa

CTIP Reports point to the fact that whereas the nationalities of human trafficking victims come from the world's entire cultures, trafficking sources are mainly the world's poor regions to the world's richer regions. Thus, modern-day trafficking, just like its counterpart, the slave trade era, once again targets today's Third World countries, especially Africa, which is particularly hit.

The United Nations Organization against Drugs and Crime (UNODC: 2009)²⁵ estimates that African female victims of sex trafficking comprise 10 per cent of the between 3,800 and 5,700 women and young girls who are annually trafficked into Western European countries of France, Italy (since 1980s), Netherlands (since 1990s), Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom, Norway and Belgium among others. They boast of a lucrative annual multi-million (US\$152-228 million) dollar forced and criminal sex industry market mainly from the West African countries of Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon and Guinea.

UNICEF (2003:9) study on Child Trafficking states that whereas it found reliable data on the number of human beings that are annually trafficked out of, and within Africa scarce, it nonetheless found that 'human trafficking affected all 54 African countries either as countries of origin or destination'. Of the African victims 34% were trafficked to Europe, 26% to Middle

²⁵<http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/index.html> downloaded on 25 July 2009

East and other Arab countries and 89% between African countries themselves (UNICEF 2003:10).

The study which labelled trafficking in persons in Africa as a ‘huge problem’ also found that children were the most vulnerable to trafficking. As many as 400,000 African children were annually trafficked among and beyond the borders of some of the West African nations of Nigeria, Mali, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Guinea Bisau (UNICEF 2003:12) mainly for sexual exploitation and labour. This information is corroborated by IOM (2006:6) which reported that as many as 18,000 people are annually trafficked through Tanzanian and Kenyan borders to European countries such as Germany. In Kenya, they cite an estimated 1,000 school-going children who are annually lured into the country’s coastal city of Mombasa’s sex tourism trade.

Dottridge (2004:17) documents a typical case of child trafficking in Africa. During the Easter weekend of April 2001, 43 teenagers comprising 16 girls, 24 boys and 3 babies from five West African countries of Benin (13), Togo (8), Mali (17), Guinea (1) and Senegal (1), destined to Gabon, together with their traffickers, disembarked from a slave ship, ‘The Etireno’ at Cotonou Port in Benin on its way back from the Nigerian coast. Although most of these young people were aware that they were going to work in Gabon, in effect none of them knew where Gabon was located, who the adults accompanying them were, and that they had been bought for resell.

CTIP (2003:7) maintains that the African Continent accounts for 31.4% of the world’s human trafficking business with as many as 45 (83.3%) of its 54 nations already badly affected, the majority, 44, of which are origin (sending countries), making Africa a major source of this new world trade commodity.

The scope and extent to which Africa is affected by human trafficking is reflected in the media reported²⁶ European Police Agency (Europol) bust of a sex trafficking ring comprising mainly of Nigerian citizens who were charged for trafficking women for sex across 7 European countries of Italy, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and San Marino. The 34 suspected criminal traffickers were accused of forcing their victims into prostitution and holding them in criminal cells where they (victims) were forced, through perpetual intimidation and violence, to hand over all their sex earnings to the 'cell madams' to pay off 'debts' incurred for their land, sea and air journeys to Europe. They (the trafficking perpetrators) were also charged for transporting their victims on counterfeit travel documents, corroborating with two Italian doctors to carry out illegal abortions on their victims, and using their victims (sex slaves) as drug trafficking mules, especially between Madrid in Spain and Piedmont and Marche in Italy.

While UNICEF (2003:12) does not find poverty the principal element that makes women, young girls and children vulnerable to trafficking, it states that poverty can be the cause of desperate situations that expose poor women and children to manipulation. Other critical elements UNICEF identified as facilitators of human trafficking were the collapse of protective social structures in times of wars and conflicts, economic hardships, gender discrimination and some inappropriate and/or harmful traditional beliefs and practices such as early marriage, lack of birth registrations, all which serve to boost vulnerability of children and women to exploitation.

UNICEF (2003:12) called on all African nations to urgently harmonize their national policies against human trafficking and to enact strong laws that could help to counter it by deterring potential trafficking crimes and prosecuting its perpetrators.

²⁶Nampa-Reuters. 'Police bust sex trafficking ring in Europe.' The Namibian, Thursday 25 June 2009:4. Windhoek.

2.5. Trafficking has become a Major Social Issue in the Southern African Region

Research studies conducted by local and international Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in SADC countries allude to the fact that human trafficking is a highly socially segregated and gendered activity.

Martens et al (2003:11) who examined trafficking of women and children in Southern African countries of Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, DR Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia) established that 11 out of 14 SADC countries are sources of the scourge. Of the 11 source countries in Southern Africa, 8 countries serve as transit countries, while South Africa is a major destination country, particularly of land border and refugee trafficking. The study estimates that between 850 and 1,100 women and children are trafficked into South Africa every year, mainly into the sex industry. Martens cites 1,000 Mozambican women and children who are annually coerced and trafficked to South Africa's prostitution and cheap labour market under the pretext of lucrative job offers for an approximate annual income of SAR1 million to their traffickers. He adds that Thailand, China, and Eastern Europe serve as extra-regional sources, with Europe as a much sought after destination.

IOM (2003:135) points out that human trafficking in Southern Africa is targeting females more than males, and females in social vulnerability more than the advantaged ones. During the first 6 months of 2008 alone, Mozambican authorities rescued more than 200 people who were being trafficked to South Africa (Katerere: 2008).

Similarly Kiremire (2002:31) found Zambia's growing prostitution and sex trafficking associated to its neighbouring countries of Angola, Botswana, Congo DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe as well as South Africa, all which served as receiving nations.

Among the contentious issues the SADC Audit on Gender and Development (Ganyani: 2008) identified in the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development was lack of adequate legal and policy protections of females, especially young girls and children, against the effects of the region's entertainment and advertising businesses. These businesses, the Audit maintained, expose the women and young adolescents who get exposed to them to various forms of exploitation such as commercial sex and trafficking for sexual exploitation.²⁷ These Southern African nations happen to simultaneously bear the blunt of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic.²⁸

This finding was reiterated by Molo Songololo's (2000)'s who concluded that although all the 14 SADC countries had ratified the United National Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and adopted the SADC Heads of States Gender Protocol, only one country of Tanzania had enacted specific legislation against human trafficking.²⁹ This is in spite of the fact that the SADC Gender Protocol specifically recommends accelerated action against trafficking of children and women. Chichava and Kiremire (2007) emphasize this flaw when they find that not all African member states of the United Nations had adopted the Palermo Protocol, nor all member states of the African Union had ratified the African Charter on the Rights of the Child.

²⁷Staff Writer. 'Namibia urged to curb child trafficking.' Southern Times, 28 June 2009:A6. Windhoek.

²⁸The findings of this study have since been corroborated by the US Department of State 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report which states that Namibia is a source, transit and destination country for children trafficked, mainly by truck drivers, to and through Namibia from countries such as Angola, Zambia and West Africa to South Africa for the purpose of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, agricultural labour and livestock herding.

²⁹This number has since risen to 4 with Mozambique and Zambia having enacted anti trafficking in persons (TIP) legislations in 2008 and Namibia whose Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) Act of 2004 enforced on 5 May 2009 also addresses human trafficking.

Like UNICEF (2003:12), Leggett (2004) emphasizes lack of a specific law against human trafficking as a major stabling block. This point is further stressed by International Organization for Migration (IOM) which states that ‘human trafficking is not yet a crime in most Southern African countries’. They urge countries such as Zimbabwe, which, ‘because of their geographical location, are prone to being used by trafficking perpetrators to transport their victims to South Africa’, to urgently develop and enact ant-trafficking laws.³⁰

The above sources also show that both human trafficking and sexual exploitation are highly hazardous to their victims’ psychic health and physical integrity. The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-International (CATW)³¹ describes prostitution as inherently exploitative. They stress the fact that ‘even when the process of recruitment would appear to be consensual, the choices of the woman involved were usually the product of poverty or past abuse’.

Chichava and Kiremire (2007) find that child trafficking for exploitation purposes and sexual abuse of children were characterized by as high as 78% violence in the form of physical, psychological, mental, and morally, dominated by crimes such as rapes, assault, harassment, and thefts, drug consume and that these vices were intertwined with life threatening diseases, mainly STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and HIV and AIDS. They conclude that the abuse of children and young people is one of major challenge to all SADC countries where social and economic vulnerability is linked to the HIV/AIDS scourge whose prevalence rate Allais (2006:3) pages at between 20% and 40%.

³⁰ZIANA. ‘Call to curb human trafficking’. Southern Times, 28 June 2009:A7. Windhoek

³¹<http://www.catwinternational.org> downloaded on 6 June 2009

Sex trafficking-based violence was stressed by Kiremire (2002:36) who identified a violence rate of up to 89%. She states that many of the affected young people experienced life-threatening situations that included harassment, assault, and rape. In Namibia, these findings were corroborated by LAC (2002:13) who tagged violence and abuse in prostitution in Namibia at 43.2%.

It is in this connection that the International Labour Organization (ILO) has defined trafficking and prostitution of children and young people for exploitation purposes as the ‘worst forms of labour,’ and has consequently established an International Convention to outlaw it (ILO 182 1999).

The complexity of the connection between human trafficking, prostitution and exploitation in Southern African countries is ably demonstrated by a recent combined study by the South African Institute for Security Studies and SWEAT (Gould and Fick:2008) which suggests that contrary to popular social beliefs, ‘none of the approximately 1,000 Cape Town prostitutes were victims of human trafficking’. Further still, the study did not find any existence of child trafficking in the City. Ironically, the study simultaneously proceeds to state that it ‘discovered a continuum of vulnerability to gross abuse by clients and other third parties including the police of which trafficking was the extreme’.

The level of contradiction is further reflected in the fact that while this study concludes that, ‘the underground nature of the sex industry gave employers space to engage in unacceptable labour practices’, it also argues that people enter prostitution for rational reasons, primarily because

prostitution offers to them far better earning-prospects and a greater flexibility than other available opportunities.

Markedly, the study proceeds to state that, ‘contrary to general social perceptions, the victims in this continuum are not passive but simple people who have had to make extreme and unpopular decisions in an effort to change their financial circumstances’. Consequently, none of the prostitutes they interviewed considered themselves victims of anything more than mere circumstances since they had not been forced and/or trafficked into prostitution against their own will by unscrupulous pimps and/or other ill intentioned exploiters.

Curiously, this study which sharply contradicts all previous studies done on prostitution and human trafficking in the region, (IOM: 2004; UNICEF: 2004; Molo Songololo: 2000/2002; Kiremire and Chichava: 2007), proceeds to recommends urgent decriminalization and regulation of the sex industry by removing all the laws that make the sale of sex by consenting adults a crime without explaining how sex vendors will be protected against such abuses including human trafficking.

More importantly, the study makes no mention of an estimated 247,000 children the South African Department of Social Development Child Protection Action Plan for the World Cup estimates currently work in exploitative labour (including prostitution) in South Africa³²and practical mechanisms of distinguishing and policing ‘adolescent’ prostitutes and ‘adult’ prostitutes.

³²South Africa’s Department of Social Development Child Protection Action Plan for the World Cup has expressed worry that child trafficking might increase as ‘poor South Africans struggle for a slice of the \$4-billion the World Cup is expected to generate’. Consequently, Parliament is considering enacting a trafficking law aimed at preventing the recruitment of children to beg and/or hawk souvenirs on the streets and forced into prostitution.

2.6. Theoretical Framework: The link between Societies in Transition and Social Economic Vulnerability of Women and Children

In the same way as the Southern African Catholic Bishop do, IOM (2009:7) characterises trafficking in persons as a harmful and sometimes deadly criminal act of violence that violates human rights. Under the pretext of promises of jobs and hopes for a better future, trafficking operators entice and lure their victims, mostly women and children in disadvantages situations, into a cycle of migratory slavery characterized by structural and social barriers. More often than not, these barriers expose their victims to a host of social restrictions that are dominated by isolation, discrimination, linguistic and cultural limitations, and ultimately, complex logistical impediments relating to transportation and administrative procedures. Superlatively, they culminate in debilitating physical, psychological and health problems, all which imply a high level of social and economic exploitation. This type of human exploitation can analytically be positioned within the theoretical context of the concepts of 'social formation', 'societies in transition', the emergence of the 'underclass' and the 'conflict theory of deviant behaviour'.

Karl Marx (1978:2021) identifies economy as the 'determinant factor of the social formation within the complexity of the articulation of instances' where 'men inevitably enter into definite relations independent of their will. He proposes that such relations of production have to be appropriate to a given stage in the development of their material forces of production'. He goes on to emphasize the fact that the totality of the relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation on which arise a legal and political superstructure and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness. He further points out that the mode of production of material life conditions the general process of social, political and intellectual life. Thus, the social arrangement of production leads to mechanisms juxtaposing of those who have

and those who have not; those who control and those who are controlled; those who exploit and those who are exploited and culminate in class structures of power and social inequality. Ultimately, the relations of production Marx refers to are symptomatic of unequal social relations.

Samir Amin (1976:16) reiterates that social formations are: ‘concrete, organized structures that are marked by a dominant mode of production and the articulation around a complex group of modes of production that are subordinate to it’.

Amin’s definition is motivated by his concern about the risk of ‘incorporating African societies that are transiting from pre-colonial primitive communities to colonial and post colonial states into the fast expanding capitalist mode of production while they still don’t have the capacity to ‘generate self sustaining economic and political processes’. He holds that whereas Africa’s pre-capitalist egalitarian stateless societies in which ‘bands of individuals grouped together and lived by hunting, gathering and sharing their common booty or finds equitably necessitated total solidarity’, the transition from such primitive communities to African post-capitalist, colonial and post-colonial class societies lack the type of coercion to make them socially, economically and politically viable societies. He maintains that a combination of lack of such coercion and blatant economic inequality only serves to perpetuate these peripheral states’ dependency on their dominant capitalist powers. Inevitably, such dependency decreases their abilities to control their own social, economies and political processes.

Citing post independent Namibia, Tapscott (1995:153) provides a living example of ‘neo-colonial dependent and subordinate status to a former colonial power’ within the rhyme of

international economy. He states advances (Tapscott (1995:164) that in such fast transiting economically dependent neo-colonial societies, members of the main stream society, who, because of their particular social and economic circumstances, fail to cope with the demands and pressures of the inequality and disadvantage imbedded in the capitalist mode of production, unify to form a new class he refers to as 'underclass'. In other words, the complexity of social formation and social transition is reflected in the impact these two phenomena have had on the weakest members of the society. Thus, they fall by the way-side of capitalism into perpetual poverty, destitution, diseases and exploitation in the form of sex, labour and crime. They include women, adolescents and children.

Indeed, today, the extent and impact of the Western World's colonization on Africa and the entire world as a whole, clearly goes far beyond human imagination and interpretation. Post-modern Africa's human demographic features demonstrate that the western sailors (Portuguese explorers) who braved the Atlantic and Indian Oceans in search of new lands and weather anchored their ships at the South Western African coast as long ago as 17th century. Hopwood (2006:1) records that when the sailors wrote back home, apart from telling about their newly found lands, they also told about their newly found 'barbaric and primitive Africans'. Ipinge, et al., (2000) points out that, 'because of an extreme shortage of European women during the German colonial periods, many European males engaged in sex with indigenous women, and even produced children of mixed ancestry more commonly referred to as 'mischlingen'. Therefore, it is ironic that when these sailors set their eyes on the African women's nakedness, they did not find it so 'barbaric' and 'primitive' after all.

Indeed, neither did the British colonialists who annexed Walvis Bay Harbour to the British empire in 1878 and the Slave Traders who shipped millions of African men, women and children across the Atlantic Ocean for labour in their industrializing nations (Hopwood. 2006:1). Indeed Ipinge, et al., (2000) argues that in Namibia, unaccompanied colonialists and forced migrant labour men gave rise to commercialization of sex. The Germany Military of the time is believed to have established a brothel in Windhoek in which Herero women were made to provide sexual services to European men. Little wonder then, that a South African young woman, now famously known as **Bartman**, whose embalmed remains were returned back to her country South Africa only in 1992, was not only prostituted in her country South Africa, but taken to London and later to France where she was put on public display.³³ The emergence of an entirely new race along European exploration, slavery and colonisation routes stands testimony to the intertwined relationship between the western search for new lands and the African sex. Suffice to say it changed the African human family structure and sexuality significantly. It is against this background that Africa's contemporary emerging societies must be understood.

Horowitz and Schnabel (2004:2) recapitulate Amin's concerns when they propose that, 'human rights violations are often particularly severe in transition societies that are undergoing significant political, social and economic transformations'. On the one hand, the subsistence economy is characterized by varying elements of traditions and modernity where it is, in the main, populated by women, young adolescents and minors, while on the other, the profit-oriented capitalist market economy ruled by money, and in the main populated by men. Where sexuality is commercialized, these two worlds clash and amalgamate in a criminal and illegal

³³UCT Website

context, subjecting women and minors to the dictates of capitalist business and profit. The vulnerability of the victims provides the framework for their successful sexual exploitation.

Shanghala (2000:3) contends that people who fall victims of trafficking in persons, as well as those that fall prey to prostitution, inevitably become socially alienated, excluded and grossly discriminated against. Such social trends distinctly betray patriarchal traits since male-society closely interacts with prostitutes and usually thrive on them while simultaneously they socially reject them. Inevitably, while female prostitutes are stigmatized and labelled social deviants, their male prostitutes and promiscuous clients are hardly ever labelled as such. Thomas of Aquin ably describes the contradictory character of societal intolerance of prostitution in his historical characterization of prostitution: 'Sex work is like the filth in the sea or a sewer in a palace. Take away the sewer, and you will fill the palace with pollution; Take away sex workers from the world and you will fill it with sodomy' (Shanghala 2000:3). Indeed, Giddens (2005:133) affirms that 'modern-time sexual exploitation (prostitution), has, and continues to wear an invisible face'.

Like all other African present-day societies in transition, the social groups of this study depict common characteristic trends of their immediate past, mainly that their predominantly tribal-base stooped in patriarchal-control glued them in high level social-economic interdependence and solidarity. The result was that while they seemingly depicted a stable social coercion, they nevertheless, did not promote individual freedoms and liberties and were inevitably gendered. Consequently, the patriarchal system thrived on the exploitation of women's sexuality and productivity, in that women's worth was measured according to how well they served and promoted the patriarchs' cause. The more children a woman produced, the bigger her gardens

and granaries, and the larger her husband's homestead, the greater her social value. Thus, woman neither had social and economic capital of their own, nor political control. In sum, they neither had control over their own lives, nor ownership of the produce of their labour and human reproduction. This largely gender-based exploitative patriarchal social system thrived uninterrupted until the 19th century when Western capitalist powers colonization of Africa, among other regions, disrupted the continent's centuries-old social order. Not only did Colonialism bring with it a different type of social structure in the form of **capitalism**, but it exhibited forms of social, political and economic control that replicated the previously culturally and traditionally unequal and exploitative patriarchal social order. Thus, both the past and the new social orders were detrimental to women as, in accordance with Karl Marx's conclusions (Giddens 2005:670) women remained nothing more than social and economic objects of men.

Conceptually, it is here that this research locates sex trafficking, prostitution and exploitation. It argues that prostitutes and their traffickers are unequal, disadvantaged and marginalized members of the peripheral states' new social formation, the underclass, who invariably turn to deviance (Taylor, Walton and Young: 1973) and (Giddens: 212)³⁴ to gain economic mileage and social recognition to fit in fast modernizing but still socially, economically and politically inadequate societies that are transiting from colonialism to capitalist economic states.³⁵ Yet they all remain underground activities of the social and economic class hierarchy as per the illustration below:

³⁴New criminology explains deviance in terms of 'the structure of society and the preservation of power among the ruling class.'

³⁵http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_criminology downloaded on 24 June 2009

Figure 1: The role of Transition from Stateless Pre-colonial to Colonial/Post-colonial African Societies on Class Formation and its Impact on Individual Persons' Social-Economic Status and Behaviour

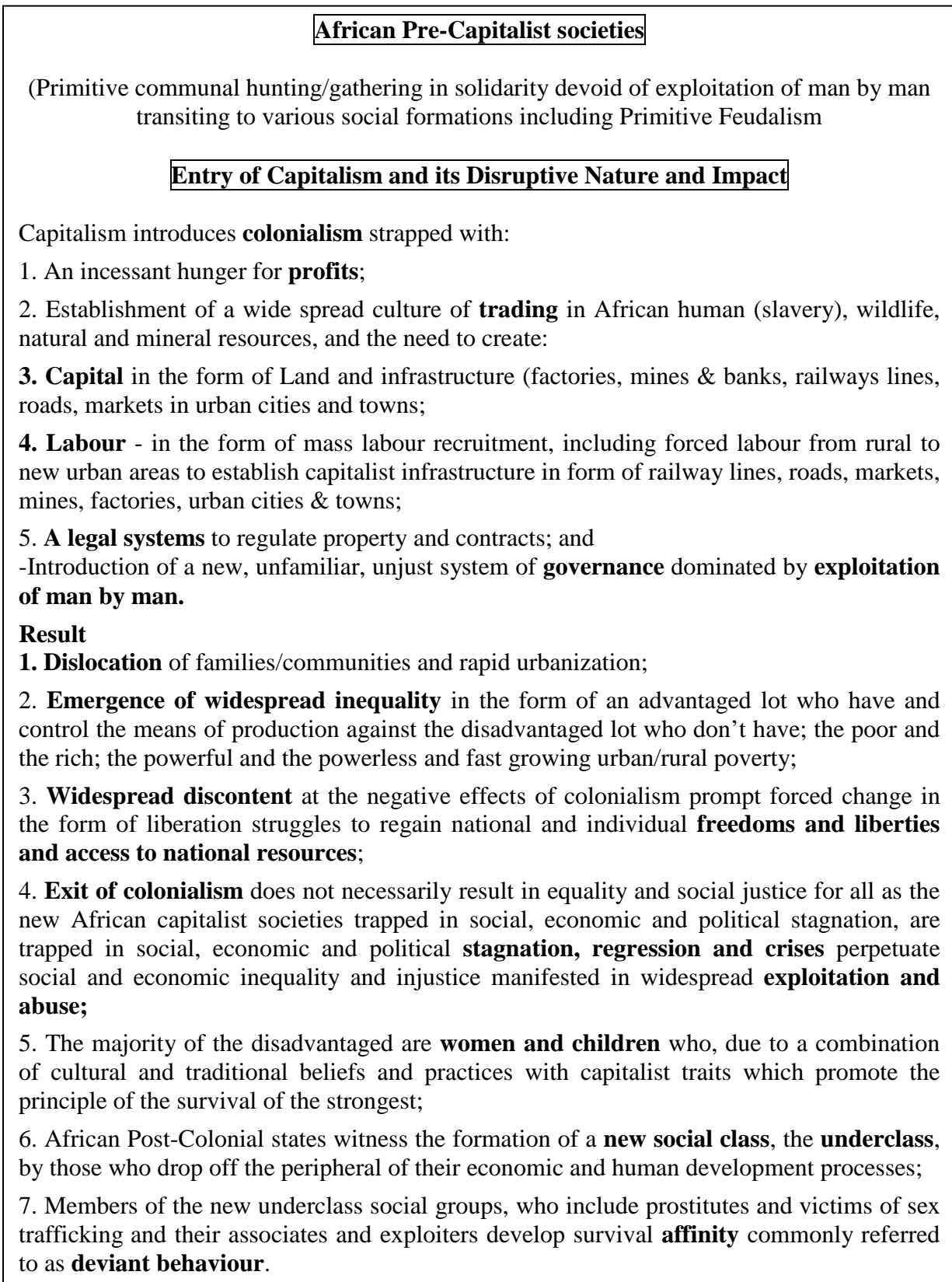
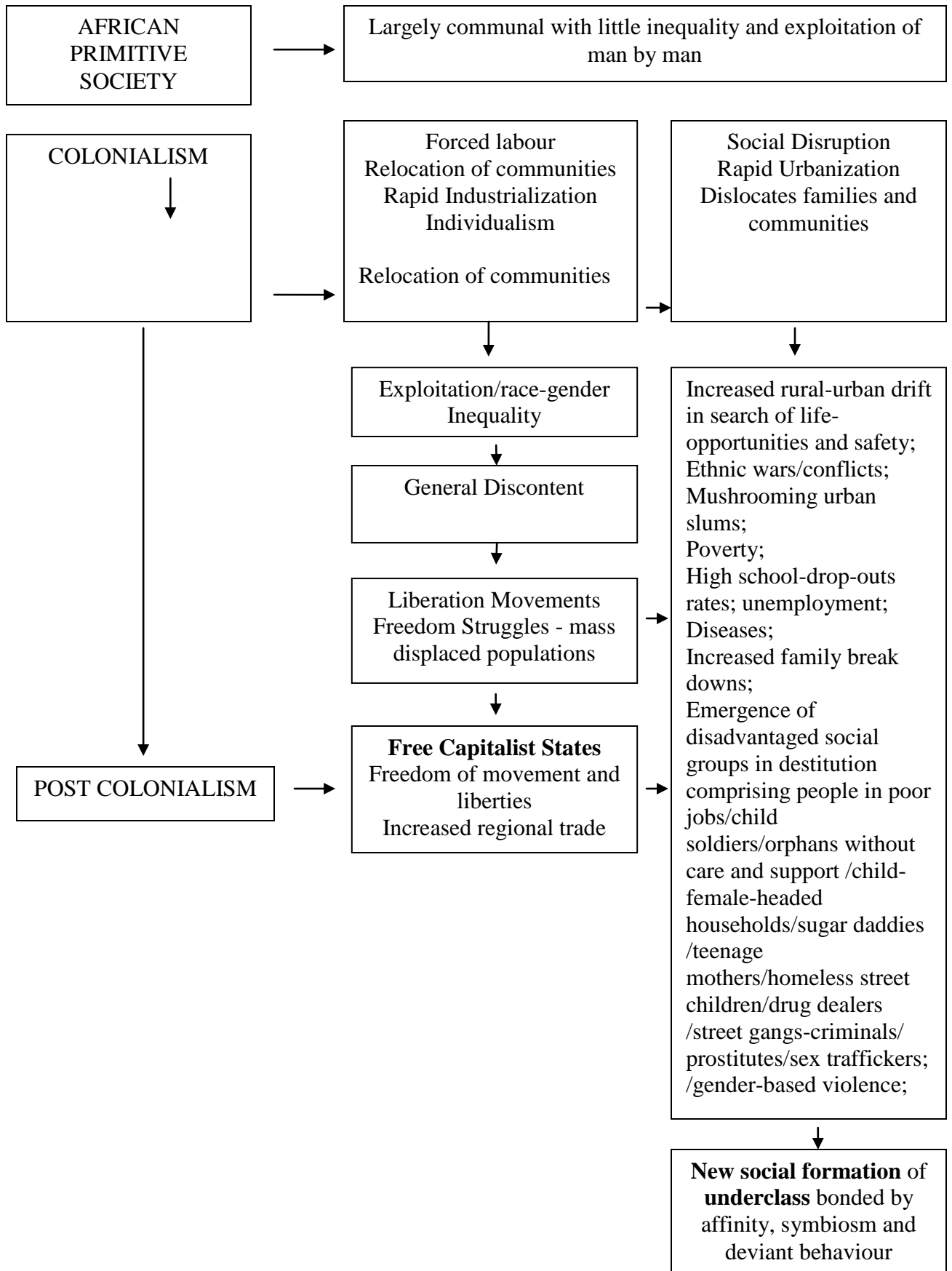


Figure 2: Societies in transition produce new social groups with new behaviour traits



It is against this background that this section attempts to divulge issues of social, economic and legal vulnerability to trafficking in persons and their possible association to prostitution and sexual exploitation in the context of the Namibian Nation.

2.7. Human Trafficking: The Namibian Context

Legal System and Protection of Women and Children

(a) At National Level - Namibia is a Roman Dutch common law jurisdiction, with the main sources of its laws being its constitution, the common law, legislation of successive legislative bodies since 1884 and judicial precedents.

Article 10 of the Namibian constitution guarantees equality to all before the law. It simultaneously expressly prohibits discrimination of anybody on the grounds of sex (Winterfeldt et al. 2002:144).

(b) At International Level - Namibia as a member of the United Nations (UN) and its General Assembly (UNGAS), has committed itself to the protection of the integrity and honour of all its members through the ratification of all the important human rights instruments that relate to society's vulnerable groups, mainly women and children. It has acceded to, and ratified various international, continental and sub regional legal instruments since independence. These include but are not limited to:

1. 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which enforces the rights of women;
2. 1987 UN Convention against Torture and other Acts of Cruel, Degrading and Inhumane

Treatment or Punishment (CAT) that prohibits and prevents torture and other acts of cruel and degrading inhuman treatment or punishments;

3. 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
4. 1999 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
5. 2000 UN Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
6. 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
7. 2000 UN Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and children that supplements the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and
8. 2000 UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air that supplements the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

(c) At Regional Level - Namibia has ratified the following African Union legally binding human rights instruments relating to human trafficking:

1. African Union Protocol on the protection of the rights of women which prohibits the exploitation and degradation of women and girls, and prevents and prosecutes perpetrators of trafficking in women and girls. This protocol specifically protects girls at risk of trafficking by prohibiting, combating and punishing all forms of exploitation of children, especially the girl-child.

(d) At Sub-Regional Level - Namibia has signed the non-binding 1998 SADC Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children which supplements

the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development. Namibia is also a member of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs' Organization (SARPCCO), and the African Prosecutors Association (APA).

However, in spite of the existence of all these international, regional and sub-regional human rights instruments, Bonthuys and Domingo (2007:62) maintain that African and Namibia women and girls' rights to protections against vices such as human trafficking are not necessarily enforced. They attribute such a flaw to lack of adequate enforcement mechanisms which continue to rely on the ability of individual states to deal with them. The result is that neither are most of these international human rights frameworks not incorporated in local laws, but most countries including Namibia, don not even have frameworks on compilation of UN reports.³⁶

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) - The Bill of Rights in Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia provides for the protections and promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens. Article 95 of the Namibia Constitution obligates the State to ensure protection and welfare of all its peoples even in the face of abuse. Yet, the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare³⁷ fears that gender-based violence, which she laments has already reached alarming heights with no female or child any longer free from falling their victims, is one of Namibia's most widespread violations of human rights and a development challenge.³⁸

The Minister's fears are reiterated by the United Nations (UN) system in Namibia whose reports

³⁶Taken from a direct interview this researcher had with a Law Reform Officer in Windhoek on 23 April 2009.

³⁷Nampa. 'Gender-based-violence Still a sore point. New Era Newspaper, Tuesday, September 22 2009, p15. Windhoek.

³⁸Walter, John. 'The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Namibia downloaded from www.kas.de/upload/.../namibia/HumanRights/walters.pdf on 29 June 2009, p130

indicate that 36% of the women who have ever been in a relationship experienced either physical (31%) or sexual (17%) violence.³⁹

And yet Namibia is not alone in this predicament. In July 2007, the first ever conference on gender-based violence (GBV) held in Windhoek heard that despite impressive progress in the legal systems in the SADC region, the situation of women and young girls remained critically poor. Head of the SADC Secretariat Gender Unit, Ms. Magdeline Mathiba-Madebela, informed the 350 representatives of various SADC member states sectors that without exception all SADC countries, including Namibia, were recording escalating cases of violence against women and children. She pointed out that at least one in every five women were raped, coerced into sex, killed, beaten or trafficked for sexual exploitation, usually by intimate partners, family members or friends.⁴⁰ Incidentally, these gender-based violence victims included a 62-year-old Omusati grandmother who was raped by her 24-year-old grandson.⁴¹

Ironically, the conference was convening against a backdrop of Namibia's most horrific and extreme acts of prostitute-targeted rape-dominated gender-based violence ever witnessed. This followed the gruesome discovery of female body parts of a suspected prostitute who, having been raped, was killed, and her body dismembered and deep-frozen before being dumped in separate locations along the City's highways. Cases of two other prostitutes who were raped and murdered in similar circumstances in October 2005 remain unsolved to-date,⁴² while the hunt for

³⁹Nangula Shejavali. 'strategy to combat gender violence in the works.' The Namibian, Tuesday 22 September 2009:5. Windhoek.

⁴⁰Correspondent. 'SADC wants to end gender based violence.' Southern Times, 24 June 2007:A2. Windhoek.

⁴¹Helvy Tueumuna. 'Man rapes grandmother.' New Era, Tuesday 24 September 2009:3. Windhoek.

⁴²Werner Menges. 'B1 Killer Probe Widens'. The Namibian, Monday 17 September 2007:1. Windhoek.

the rapist and killer of the latest victim whose body parts were discovered near Grootfontein General Hospital in the Country's North East continues.⁴³

Markedly, three months earlier, in March 2007, these gender-segregated heinous crimes had prompted Home Affairs and Immigration Minister, Hon. Rosalina Nghidinwa, to, while addressing the International Women's Day, lament:

‘Women and girls in Namibia are under siege in their homes, at school, at work and on the streets - sexual assault, abuse, murder, domestic violence and harassment in Namibia has more than doubled in the past years. Not even infants and pensioners are safe’.⁴⁴

Indeed, the Minister's concerns were not without basis. Legal Assistance Centre (2006:7) estimates that 60 females in every 100,000 are raped, at an average of 3 rapes cases per day, by predominantly (90%) male perpetrators. These staggering statistics were emphasized by the Namibian Newspaper, which labelled the week in which 9, 23-54 year-old men were arrested and charged for raping 12, 9-16-year-old children and 2, 27-33-year old women ‘a shameful week of sex attacks’.⁴⁵

Subsequently, during the launch of the Zero Tolerance for Gender-Based-Violence National Campaign at Oshikango Border Post with Angola on 31 August 2009, Prime Minister Nahas Angula declared that ‘the Government of the Republic of Namibia is deeply concerned about the high levels of gender-based-violence in the country. The Premier elaborated that violent acts included murders (including passion killings), grievous bodily harm, indecent assault, sexual

⁴³Werner Menges. ‘Butchered woman identified – Cut legs found at Grootfontein.’ The Namibian, Monday 24 September 2007:1. Windhoek.

⁴⁴Notable Quotes. ‘Not even infants and pensioners are safe.’ The Namibian, Monday 12 March 2007:4. Windhoek.

⁴⁵Adam Hartman. ‘4-month-old twins raped, one baby dead, dad held.’ The Namibian, Wednesday 20 June 2007:1. Windhoek.

abuse, defilement, rape, attempted rape, female genital mutilation, forced prostitution, trafficking in persons, baby dumping which amounted to 12,563 police reported cases in 2007. And yet, violent incidents of gender-based-violence are not abating. While in 2008 more than 11,000 victims reported cases to the Police Women and Child Protection Units country-wide, by 2009 this number had increased by 630 cases to an estimated 11,630.⁴⁶

While stressing the fact that in Namibia gender-based-violence mainly affects children and women, who inevitably suffer physical, mental, psychological and spiritual abuse and torture, Premier Angula declared gender-based-violence a human rights issue and challenged all members of the Namibian society to wage a determined war on it and eliminate it.⁴⁷

And yet the situation is not rescinding. According to Namibia Police statistics,⁴⁸ at least **one woman is raped everyday** in the regions of Oshana, Omusati and Ohangwena. During October 2009 alone, Omusati region topping the list at 50% cases, the majority of which happened in Outapi and Okahao constituencies. Only 14% of the victims were adults while the rest of the victims were children under the age of 17 years. The youngest victim was a 5-year-old girl from Outapi, who was raped by a 55-year-old man. The oldest accused rapist was a 71-year-old man from Okongo in the Ohangwena Region. His victim was a 7-year-old girl. In Okahao, a 58-year-old man had repeatedly raped two girls aged 8 and 7 years old.

Police regional spokesperson, Sergeant Hesekeel Hamalwa of Omusati Police blamed the high incidents of rape on lack of supervision and negligence of parents or guardians of children; while

⁴⁶Jana-Mari Smith. 'Victims of violence central focus of Ministry.' The Namibian, Thursday 25 February 2010:5. Windhoek.

⁴⁷Taken from Prime Minister Nahas Angula's official speech while launching the zero tolerance national campaign against gender based violence at Oshikango border post on 1 August 2009.

⁴⁸Helvy Tueumuna. 'Police worried about escalating rape'. New Era, Thursday 12 November 2009:1. Windhoek.

on his Namibia's Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Helmet Angula,⁴⁹ attributes the high prevalence of domestic and gender-based-violence in the country to the colonial and apartheid eras. He points to that fact that during these slave-like regimes, labour systems distorted family structures and organization by forcefully separating thousands upon thousands of men from their communities and families to work in emerging urban cities, towns and farms for as long as up to 20 months at a time:

“This kind of oppressive rule damaged society as husbands and fathers could only see their families back home for a brief period at the end of the years. For the rest of the time, the children could not experience the love of their fathers, brothers and uncles and could not be taught the cultural values and traditions as intensively as one would have wished. The isolated men were squeezed together in hostels known as compounds and often frustrations among them would erupt in violence. They beat each other up and those who were successful were looked up as champions. Employers also liked them and made such brutes foremen”.

In addition, Hon. Angula believes that the colonial and apartheid system of preference of huge, tough and ugly black men for recruitment into the police force also contributed to the Region's and Namibia's evolving culture of violence. He recalls how oftentimes adult black men were subjected to public sjamboks on their buttocks with their trousers hanging down their legs.

Child Protection – According to the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Honourable Marlene Mungunda, the status of children remains a serious challenge to the Namibian Society. The Minister points out that, ‘the Namibian child faces abuse and neglect,

⁴⁹Brigitte Weidlich. ‘Hon. Helmet Angula addresses Parliament on Gender-Based-Violence’. The Namibian, Friday 10 July 2009:7. Windhoek.

early pregnancy and exposure to drug and alcohol abuse, while premature death of either one or both parents robs an estimated 16.5% of their child-hood, leaving approximately 155,000 children orphaned and a further 95,000 vulnerable.⁵⁰ These youngsters subsequently assume the responsibility of household heads, caring for younger siblings.⁵¹ She adds that an estimated 30-60% of battered mothers' children experience neglect, emotional abuse, sexual or physical abuse.⁵²

It is from this point of view that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is pushing for the enactment of a new Namibian Child Care and Protection bill to replace the outdated colonial Children's Act 33 of 1960. The new bill which has been in the making for the last 15 years, proposes to cover some key challenges that are characteristic of the Southern African region. These include rapid rural-urban drift, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the breakdown of traditional family structures, globalisation and various international conventions on the rights of children.⁵³

Child Labour - The 1999 Namibian Child Activities Survey recorded that child labour in Namibia takes the form of forced agricultural labour, cattle herding, vending and child prostitution.⁵⁴

Namibia has ratified both the ILO Minimum Age Convention (C138), the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182) in 2000, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in

⁵⁰John Ekongo. 'Gender ministry forges ahead with OVC.' New Era, Tuesday 23 February 2010:5. Windhoek.

⁵¹Wezi Tjaronda. 'Child Headed Households on increase.' New Era, Tuesday 16 June 2009:1. Windhoek.

⁵²Walter, John. 'The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Namibia on www.kas.de/upload/.../namibia/HumanRights/walters.pdf down loaded on 29 June 2009:130.

⁵³Servaas Van Den Bosch. 'Up-dating Child Protection in Namibia.' AllAfrica-Glkobal Media/Inter-Press Service, 20 August 2009. Johannesburg.

⁵⁴A further survey was conducted in December 2005, the results of which remain unpublished.

1990. Namibia also signed the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1999, but has not ratified it as yet.

The National Action Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour in Namibia (TECL) which was initiated with the support of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Towards the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (TECL) Programme in 2006 was finally adopted in February 2008. It is spearheaded by PACC (Programme Advisory Committee on Child Labour) comprising government departments, Labour Unions, the business community, civil society organizations and is responsible for the development and implementation of the programme.

Namibia's Labour Act of 2007 prohibits and punishes employment of underage children.

Law Enforcement - The police, including paramilitary Special Field Force (SFF), is supervised by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Crime - The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which computerizes comparative crime data based on International Police (INTERPOL)'s 7 offenses index (murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, counterfeiting⁵⁵ and motor vehicle theft offenses analysis), ranks Namibia's crime rate high for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary but relatively low for larceny and auto theft compared to industrialized countries.

⁵⁵On Monday September 21, 2009, New Era Newspaper carried a front paper story by Petronella Sibeene to the effect that Customs and Excise officials in Tsumeb had destroyed over 18.27 million sticks contraband of illegal counterfeit cigarettes in 1,827 master cases worth N\$36 million. The contraband had been intercepted and impounded in raids conducted by Namibian Police, together with Customs and Excise and the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa (TISA) over a period of 3 months all over the country. This discovery pointed to a possible existence of organized crime in the country.

Rapidly rising organized crime that is targeting tourists recently motivated the Namibian Police to, on 16 November 2009, launch the country's first ever Special Tourism Protection Unit (TPU). The Unit is meant to protect tourists against criminal activities such as pointing of firearms, robberies with aggravated circumstances, theft and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, abduction and murder which, over a period of 10 months, between February and October, 2009, accounted for 121 victims. Tourism is Namibia's 4th fastest growing industry that provides jobs to thousands of nationals.⁵⁶

Alcohol abuse - poses a high risk problem to the country. Namibia has been ranked among the 10 top consumers of alcohol with more than half of the population estimated to consume at least 33 bottles of beer a week. The City of Windhoek alone boasts of an estimated 1,500 drinking establishments that include bars and shebeens.⁵⁷

Erongo Police Regional Commander, Deputy Commissioner Festus Shilongo, is dismayed that high rates of alcohol and drug abuse and drug trafficking have hampered his officers' efforts to contain crime and consequently threaten the security of the coastal regions. He regrets that:

“Here people drink alcohol like water. Water is even better; you drink one glass then pause.”⁶²

The Ministry of Health attributes, 'most crimes committed in Namibia to alcohol abuse, with as many as 9 out of 10 violent crimes committed under the influence of drugs and alcohol (Gender Watch 2008:13).

⁵⁶Irene !Hoas. 'Namibian Police launch the country's first ever Special Tourism Protection Unit (TPU).' New Era, Tuesday 17 November 2009:1. Windhoek.

⁵⁷Kae Matundu-Tjiparuro. 'Alcohol abuse poses a high risk problem to the country'. New Era, Friday 19 June 2009:7. Windhoek.

Drug Trafficking - Namibia faces an impending severe drug trafficking problem. In his national address to commemorate the 26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Honourable Richard Kamwi, Minister of Health and Social Services be-mourned illegal drug abuse which he said 'had reached an all time high'. Citing Police recent arrest of 7 foreigner men and women with N\$3million contraband worth of cocaine stashed in their digestive system, the Minister added that more and more Namibian women were being used by their 'so called lovers to traffic drugs into the country, and/or hiding/harboursing those that traffic drugs'.⁵⁸ The Minister's assertion confirmed earlier revelations by the Institute of Security Studies that 'countries to the West, including Namibia and Angola had developed markets for contain'.⁵⁹

It further reiterated New Era newspaper assertions that 'more people were getting hooked on drugs as Namibia progressed from being a transit route for hard-core drugs to a consumer country with a growing number of people sniffing cocaine'.⁶⁰ New Era had quoted information from the Drug Law Enforcement Unit (DLEU) whose officers had, between 2006 and 2007, arrested between 526 and 863, mainly Angolan drug-dealers for using Namibia as a transit country to transport 1,838.4kg, 2,601 tablets and 785 dosage units of cannabis (1,804.7kg), methaqualone/mandrax (1,015 tablets), cocaine powder (940.48kg), crack (785 dosage units) and ecstasy (1,586 tablets) drugs valued at a total of N\$22,426,296 (N\$1,919,555 in 2006 and N\$20,506,741 for 2007) from South America to South Africa and some European countries. The table below illustrates the level of the problem.

⁵⁸Denver Isaacs. 'Drug abuse in Namibia hits all-time high.' The Namibian, Tuesday 23 June 2009:1. Windhoek.

⁵⁹Rowan Phillip. 'International drug syndicates target South African mules.' The Times, March 22 2009:1. Johannesburg.

⁶⁰Anna Shilongo. 'More Namibians Hooked.' New Era, Wednesday 16 April 2008:1. Windhoek.

Table 1: Drug Dealers arrested in Namibia transporting drugs from South America to Angola for South African and European Markets between 2006 and 2007

Drugs and Number of arrested persons	2006	2007
Cannabis	421.705kg	1,383.037kg
Methaqualone (mandrax)	634 tablets	381 tablets
Cocaine Powder	908 grammes	32.477kg
Crack	257 dosage units	528 dosage units
Ecstasy	1,192 tablets	394 tablets
Total arrests	526 persons	863 persons
Total Value of drugs	N\$1,919,555	N\$20,506,741

The gravity of drug trafficking into and via Namibia was later confirmed by further Police arrests of 17 Angolans drug mules within a period of 3 months from May to July 2009.⁶¹ On 21 July 2009, while testifying in yet another cocaine trafficking trial in the Windhoek Magistrates Court, the Commanding Officer of the Namibian Police's drug Law Enforcement Unit, Detective Chief Inspector Barry de Klerk, informed the Court that the fact that the drug mules had been arrested in Windhoek, the capital city, Walvis Bay, the Port/Harbour city and Katima Mulilo, the border getaway town to central and Eastern Africa was a clear demonstration about how widely-spread the activities of drugs mules entering Namibia have become.

De Klerk said the Police had bought similar bullets of cocaine inside Namibia in under-cover operations, which indices that the drugs entering the country in this form were not merely in transit through Namibia but were also being put on the domestic market.

On June 30, 2009, the 4 Angolan nationals who, on April 1, were part of the first group of foreign drug couriers to be caught carrying cocaine into Namibia inside their digestive systems were sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment each when their trial ended in the Windhoek

⁶¹The number of Angolan nationals arrested in Namibia for attempting to traffic illicit drugs in their digestive systems from South American countries via South Africa, Namibia and Zambia since December 2008 and August 2009 has reached 21

Magistrate's Court.⁶² By November 2009, a total of 26 foreign drug mules had been arrested at Hosea Kutako International Airport, Windhoek West, Walvis Bay Airport, Wanela Border Post in Caprivi Region, and Keetmanshoop. A total contraband of approximately 13.4kg had been intercepted. The following table indicates the number of foreign drug mules arrested in 12 months between December 2008 and November 2009.

Table 2: Foreign Drug Mules arrested in Namibia between December 2008 and November 2009⁶³

Nr	Date	Location Apprehended	No	Nationality	Gender	Age	Quantity	Value N\$	Origin	Transit	Destination	Legal Action
1	12/08	Hosea Kotako Airport	2	Angola	1 m/1 f				Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	Arrested/died of drug bust
2	15/4/09	Hosea Kotako Airport	7	Angola	6m/1f		225gm	N\$3m	Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	8-year jail
3	27/5/09	Walvis Bay Airport	1	Angola	m							
3	26 6 09	Wanela Border	1	Angolan	m				Brazil	Zam/Namibia	Angola	In Custody
4	30/6/09	Hosea Katak Airport	1	Angola	m	35	1000gm	500000			Angola	In custody
5	1/7/09	Walvis Bay Airport	1	Angola	m	48	800gm	400000	Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	In Custody
6	1/7/09	Walvis Bay Airport	2	Angola	m		2000gm	N\$1m	Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	In Custody
7	6/7/09	Walvis Bay	1	Angola	m		1200gm	600000	Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	In Custody
8	8/7/09	Hosea Kutako Airport	3	Angola	m	40 43 44	3000gm	1.5m	Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	In Custody
9	10/7/09	Walvis Bay Airport	1	Angola	m	21	963gm	481500	Brazil	SA/Namibia	Angola	In custody
10	30/7/09	Best St. Windhoek West	1	Angola	m	40	530gm	265,000	Brazil	Zam/Namibia	Angola	2-year prison
11	5/11/09	Keetmanshoop	1	Mozambican	m	37	2.9kg	1.47m	Brazil	Transit	South Africa	In Court
		Petrol Station	1	S.African	f	39						

⁶²Staff Reporter: '4 Angolans sentenced to 8 years imprisonment for drug trafficking.' The Namibian, Wednesday 22 July 2009:3. Windhoek.

⁶³The puzzle is the fact that these drug mules are able to travel all the way from the South American countries of drugs origin through South African Airports of Johannesburg and Cape Town smoothly without detection by any of the modern high-technology security screens only to be detected at the various Namibian entry points of Hosea Kotako and Walvis Bay International Airports, as well as the Namibian and Zambian border posts of Wanela in Katima Mulilo and Sesheke.

12	3/11/09	Hosea Kutako Airport	3	S. Africans	f	25	2.73kg	1.879 m	Brazil	Transit	South Africa	In Court
					m	31)	1.02kg					
					m	29)						
Total			26				13.468kg	11.1m				

In the meantime, Joyce Mends-Cole, acting United Nations Resident Coordinator in Namibia (UNDP) attributes increased trafficking in drugs to deep-rooted causes of social desperation in the form of widespread poverty and inequality.⁶⁴ This contention corroborates Taylor, Walton and Young’s social conflict theory (Giddens: 2001:211) which argues that ‘individuals actively choose to engage in deviant behaviour in response to the inequalities of the capitalist system’.⁶⁵

Gaysim - The Rainbow Project of Namibia (TRP), a project for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex (LGBTI) has been operating in Namibia for a number of years now. Working in collaboration with Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (AIM), TRP organized the first ever regional conference on gayism under the theme, ‘The First Dialogue on Homosexuality and the Christian Faith’ in Windhoek from the 2 to the 5th of November 2009. The conference which was attended by 38 clergy and 39 members of the gay community in 13 African countries of Botswana, Congo DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe purposed to find ways and means of dealing with the challenges members of the gay community in the region face on a day-to-day basis.

Interestingly, in September 2009, a group of some 40 gays and lesbians who had operated underground for many years was reported to have formed an organization called ‘People in

⁶⁴Wezi Tjaronda. ‘More Women Now in Drug Trafficking’. New Era, Tuesday 23 June 2009:1. Windhoek.

⁶⁵New criminology explains deviance in terms of, ‘the structure of society and the preservation of power among controlling or ruling classes.

Need' (PiN). The group which was apparently supported by Czech Republic NGO aimed to raise public awareness about the plight of marginalized sexual minorities and to enhance their members' social and economic empowerment, human rights and social justice in the form of equality, respect, freedom of expression, the rule of law, and HIV/AIDS education as foundations and pillars of democratic governance in accordance with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights of 1945.⁶⁶

However, after listening to a PiN presentation, members of the Karas Regional Council were reported to have brandished the PiN initiative as 'a funny project', which a Keetmanshoop Councillor labelled 'immoral to promote homosexuality'.

2.8. Prostitution and Trafficking for Exploitation in Contemporary Namibia

In Namibia, prostitution is defined as an, 'act of privately soliciting cash money in exchange for sex between a sex vendor and a sex customer'. Although it is still believed to be a recently evolved economic activity, and in some instances perceived even non-existent and thus socially and legally unacceptable and undesirable, it can safely be said to be deeply institutionalized in the Namibian society (Kiremire 2007:13) where it can be visibly be seen in many hospitality and entertainment public places (hotels, lodges, bars, sheebens, restaurants, night clubs, high ways and streets), and already involves and affects a lot of people. However, it remains an underground masked phenomenon, little studied and understood, save for a few sketchy and isolated studies (Iipinge et al. 2000).⁶⁷

⁶⁶Luqman Cloete. 'Gay, lesbian rights activists march at Keetmanshoop, Windhoek.' The Namibian, Thursday 3 September 2009:5. Windhoek.

⁶⁷Iipinge, E and Angula, M. 2000. Telling their stories: Commercial Sex Workers in Walvis Bay. UNAM. Windhoek

Nonetheless, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) assesses prostitution as an issue of national concern as it is believed to be linked to the ‘rapidly growing urban-rural migration, long distance transport, and the fast spread of HIV infection through young prostitutes who come from villages to the country’s towns and later return to the villages’.⁶⁸ It is in this respect that the 23% rural area children aged 14 years and below the 1999 Ministry of Labour Survey on Child Labour activities (NCAS) found working included children involved in sex trade for family members who act as pimps.⁶⁹

One of US Government’s Department of State’s Annual reports (CTIP 4 June 2008)⁷⁰ classified Namibia as a ‘special case’ on the basis that whereas it was strongly suspected to be a source, transit and destination country of human trafficking in persons, the status of trafficking in persons in Namibia remained unsubstantiated by reliable reporting and/or research.⁷¹

This information is confirmed by Christiaan Keulder and Debie Lebeau (2006), who while gathering qualitative data on HIV-risk-behaviour among mobile sub-populations in Walvis Bay, Katima Mulilo, Oshikango and Rundu and mapping spatial dynamics of HIV risk behaviour for each of the four towns subsequently reported close interactions between international fishermen from Spain and Russia and China, truck drivers who operate the Trans-Kalahari Highway from Angola, Botswana, South Africa and Zambia, 150 of which stop in Walvis Bay each day with these areas’ sex workers.

⁶⁸Sibeene, Petronella. ‘Call to target village sex workers’. New Era, 22 June 2006: 4. Windhoek.

⁶⁹Staff Reporter. ‘Ministry of Labour Survey on Child Labour Activities Report’. The Namibian, 11 May 2007:5. Windhoek.

⁷⁰USA Department of State. 4 June 2008. Trafficking in Persons Report Special Cases – Namibia. UNHCR Ref World: New York. TIP.

⁷¹In April 2009, the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare conducted the first ever assessment on human trafficking in Namibia. Two cases were identified, one involving a Zambian national who was trafficking boys for labour; and the second one a Namibian mother from the North of the country who forced her daughter into prostitution in Walvis Bay.

This assertion was corroborated by UNICEF Report (2003:9) on the trafficking of women and children in Africa which included Namibia among the 49 per cent of the African nations affected by trafficking.⁷² UNICEF attributes vulnerability to trafficking to migratory trends at local, national and international levels in times of social, economic and political uncertainty such as famine, floods, and drought, and wars and conflicts.

These reports corroborated Kiremire's (2002:28) earlier finding that 36.5% of a sample of 1,000 women, young adolescents and children aged between 16 and 29 years old who were involved in prostitution had either been personally trafficked or knew some close relative, friend or colleague who had been trafficked out of, or into Zambia from all its 8 neighbouring countries including Namibia. Namibia, through Katima Mulilo exit point, served as a destination country.

Although the 2008 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Report⁷³ for Namibia stated that "there were no reports that persons were trafficked to, from or within the country"⁷⁴ it simultaneously refers to Zambian and Angolan children having been trafficked into Namibia for labour exploitation. It also mentions a Namibian woman who had been found among 7 foreign victims of trafficking in Ireland.⁷⁵

It is important to note UNODC (2009:126) contention that the fact that "there have been no (official) reports of people being trafficked to, from or within the country, is not necessarily an accurate reflection of the incidence of trafficking but rather the absence of legislation and officially reported cases on this issue". It adds that "because of the absence of a specific

⁷²UNICEF 2003 report was in preparation for the UN Special Session on Children and the 2001 Yokohama 2nd World Conference against Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

⁷³M2 Presswire. 'International Human Trafficking Prostitution Ring Smashed.' UK Government: 1994-2008, M2 Communications.

⁷⁴Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour (25 February 2009), 2008 Human Rights Report: Namibia. 2008 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119016.htm>

⁷⁵Siobhan Tanner. 'To Catch a Trafficker.' downloaded from <http://www.ruhama.ie/> on 11 December 2008.

provision on human trafficking, no prosecutions or convictions were recorded during the reporting period”.⁷⁶

UNICEF’s contention was later affirmed by the Deputy Chairperson of the Namibia National Council. While reacting to the findings of IOM on Child Trafficking in the sub region, he informed the media that the fact that Namibia had not been included in the IOM report as being affected by human trafficking did not necessarily mean that human trafficking was not happening in Namibia. Rather it was simply a reflection of the level of limited information on the problem:

“Child trafficking is also happening here, all we need is to carry out a survey to determine how and where exactly”.⁷⁷

The comparative Criminology of the World in the Crime and Society is on record as stating that:

‘There were no reports that persons were trafficked to, from, or within the country. However, there were reports that UNITA forces kidnapped citizens and forced them to serve as combatants and porters in Angola. Police and immigration officials received training in combating human trafficking during the year 2001’.⁷⁸

While the first major research on prostitution in Namibia (LAC 2002:2) states that ‘there had been at least one case involving the transport of young Namibian women to South Africa for the purposes of sexual exploitation’ it simultaneously states that it did not find sufficient evidence to the effect that human trafficking was a problem in Namibia yet.

⁷⁶Taken from page 126 of UNODC report entitled ‘Global Report on Trafficking in Persons’ published in Vienna in February 2009.

⁷⁷Staff Reporter. ‘Human Trafficking.’ New Era, 19 April 2005:1. Windhoek.

⁷⁸A report by Dr. Robert Winslow of San Diego State University entitled, ‘Crime and Society’ on <http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/rwinslow/africa/namibia.html> downloaded on 12 December 2009.

Nonetheless, the LAC report mentions that, ‘This statement confirms an earlier Government Delegation report to the UN Security Council on Small Arms Debate in New York that names Namibia as a transit country for persons trafficked to and from Southern Africa’. The report further noted that there had been ‘a few cases of child prostitution’ (GRN. 24 September 1999).

The contents of this statement were reiterated by the 2006 Namibian Shadow Report to the Country Report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁷⁹

Significantly, apart from the known forms of trafficking, the report noted new forms of sexual exploitation. They included as sex tourism, the recruitment of domestic labour from developing countries known as au pair to work in developed countries, and organized marriages between women from developing countries and foreign countries. It found these practices incompatible with the equal enjoyment of rights by women, and their dignity.

In direct contrast a Namibian police spokesperson categorically stated that there was no evidence of human trafficking, although like related clandestine nature of crime, if it was being practiced, it was very secret. This position that was reiterated by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare’s country report on the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa in 2006 that trafficking of women and girls did not exist in Namibia. However, the report made reference to a reported case of a young Namibian woman who had been transportation into South Africa for forced prostitution.⁸⁰

⁷⁹NGO comments on country report CEDAW/C/NAM/2-3 - Shadow Report (2006:18) stated that human trafficking has become a serious problem in the country.

⁸⁰This was taken from the Directorate of Gender Equality and International Affairs of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare’s 2005 Country Report on the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

Namibia's official report (MGECW. 2006:41) to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW) later stated:

“Although there is no evidence that trafficking is a widespread phenomenon in Namibia, there has been at least one case involving the transport of young Namibian women to South Africa for the purposes of sexual exploitation”.

The indication that human trafficking might be happening in Namibia prompted the UN Pre-37th Working Session to ask about Government's intended action:

‘Does the government intend to carry out a study in order to assess the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls in the country?’⁸¹

In November 2007, as part of a bilateral mission to strengthen the implementation of cross border HIV/AIDS intervention, a six-man SADC Parliamentary Forum delegation comprising 3 Angolan and 3 Namibian members of parliament held consultations with governors, ministry of health and social services officials and health practitioners in the border areas of Ohangwena and Omusati Regions.

The delegation whose main objectives were to investigate alleged increased phenomenon of feminized migration (mobility of women cross border traders, labourers, prostitutes and victims of trafficking) and child trafficking across the two countries' borders was informed that women and children were being trafficked into sexual exploitation and domestic and farm labour within and outside their borders. They further informed that this situation resulted in the loss of access

⁸¹An extract from the Pre-Session Working Ground of the 37th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held in New York from 15 January to 2 February 2007 under the list of issues and questions with regard to the consideration of the periodic reports: Namibia, point 14.

to basic social amenities and rights such as health care, education and citizenship since many children born in these circumstances had no birth registration.

The delegation issued an interim a public statement in Windhoek on their findings. Among other issues, the statement mentioned that trafficking of women and children was a central issue on the delegation's agenda. It further noted and condemned the flourishing commercial sex trade in border areas involving long distance truck drivers and other SADC citizens, and committed itself to do everything in its power to fight human trafficking:

“Mindful of the obligation of states to protect all children, the delegation vehemently condemned all aspects of trafficking or smuggling of humans, and underlined the need for both countries to fight the phenomenon...the members of parliament made an unwavering commitment to follow up on this matter”.

In this respect, it is worth noting that Namibia is one of the four SADC member countries the SADC Secretariat has since selected to implement its pilot project to support the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organised Crime. The other 3 countries are Botswana, Malawi and Swaziland. The pilot project will also support the implementation of the Convention's optional protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in humans, especially women and children.⁸²

In her detailed account of the challenges of investigating, prosecuting and trial of transnational organized crime in Namibia, Zanobia (2007:73) refers to trafficking in persons and the trafficking of narcotic substances as organized crime (Zanobia. 2007:77).

⁸²Extract from a statement by Minister Dr. Nicky Iyambo of the Ministry of Safety and Security of the Republic of Namibia to the High Level Segment of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs in Vienna, Austria on 11 March 2009.

While referring to the case of two Namibian adolescent girls who were taken by truck drivers from Walvis Bay to South Africa without travel documents, raped and abandoned, Barry (Zanobia 2005:77) highlights some risk factors that increase the likelihood that Namibia is a source-country:

“At the moment cases of this nature are largely not documented, investigated and prosecuted in our country, although there is a possibility that they do exist”.

Berry (2005:78) further refers to newspaper reports about young unskilled Namibian girls who, in 2000, responded to newspaper advertisements that offered lucrative jobs to unqualified young girls in the United Kingdom but whose families attributed their subsequent disappearance to trafficking.

Further evidence emanates Victim Support Agencies and Houses of Safety in South Africa to the effect that a number of rescued victims are people believed trafficked through Namibia en route to Angola and Zambia for sexual exploitation (Berry 2005:78).

This information suggests that Namibia serves as a transit country, principally, because of the ethnic and cultural similarities which make differentiation of Namibian nationals from their neighbours too difficult for border personnel. In addition, in most of the region's countries, there still exist loopholes in the issuance of identify documents such as birth certificates, temporary travel documents and passports some of which are still handwritten and consequently liable to fraud and abuse.

Apart from suggesting that Namibia is a possible source and transit country for victims of trafficking, Barry (2005:79) further hints at the potential for Namibia being a trafficking destination country when she points out that:

“Namibia can also not be ruled out as a country of destination; it is just that law enforcement agencies are not skilled and trained to detect human trafficking victims within the country”.

Citing media reported murders of two street prostitutes in 2005 Barry (2005:79) highlights high levels of sexual exploitation among street children believed to number up to 1,000 in Windhoek alone. She identifies sex tourists as some of the main abusers. Concerns on the possible link between Namibia and human trafficking resulted in an Interpol Working Group regional meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings in Windhoek in 2008.⁸³ The meeting’s main objective was to exchange information and foster a greater degree of coordination among law enforcement agents in the fight against trafficking in persons.

During this meeting, the Deputy Inspector General for Administration at the Namibian Police, Major General James Tjivikua identified forced labour in the agricultural sector and manufacturing industries, organ removal for commercial purposes and sexual exploitation purposes as a “major concern for the region”.

⁸³John Ekongo. ‘Human Trafficking a headache for Police’ on <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809240219.html> down loaded on 24 September 2008.

The meeting participants expressed grave concern about ‘the security impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa as well as the African Cup of Nations in Angola on the SADC region as a whole particularly on children’.⁸⁴

On 11 March 2009, the Minister of Safety and Security (Dr. Nicky Iyambo) was quoted as telling a High Level Segment of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs in Vienna, Austria,⁸⁵ that the country faced serious challenges in border controls. He was particularly worried about the challenge of protecting women and girls from being used as couriers in the trafficking of illicit drugs. He called for an integrated approach to the problem that involves the mobilization of international, financial, technical and material support to build the necessary law enforcement capacity to combat illegal drug trafficking. He declared Namibia’s intention to introduce a resolution on the promotion of international cooperation in combating illegal illicit trafficking in drugs, especially the use of women and girls as drug couriers.⁸⁶

While the Minister’s statement did not explicitly focus on human trafficking, it none the less implied a possible linkage between trafficking of narcotic drugs, and the trafficking of human beings.

While Martin et al, (2003:9) do not elaborate their discovery of trafficking in persons in Namibia, their information is corroborated by the Namibian weekly *Informante*’ news story (12 October 2006:2) that the British Home Office in London had found 10 Namibian prostitutes among 188, 14-25 year-old foreign prostitutes rescued from British brothels, massage parlours and private homes by Operation Pentameter. Sex traders had sold the prostitutes mainly from

⁸⁴New Era, 12.12.2007

⁸⁵Statement by Honourable Dr Nicky Iyambo, Ministry of Safety and Security (Republic of Namibia) to the High Level Segment of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs in Vienna, Austria on 11 March 2009.

⁸⁶Ibid

Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe for 3,000 British Pounds each. Operation Pentameter had been in action since February 2006.

In October 2004, a Southern African Customs Union (SACU)/ILO programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (TECL) in 5 countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland planning workshop identified 6 worst forms of child labour. These were trafficking of children, commercial sexual exploitation of children, children in bonded labour, children collecting wood and water over long distances, children used by adults in commission of crime, and children involved in the production of charcoal as a form of hazardous work.

The Programme whose Implementation Plan was launched in 2006 noted that while the prevalence of trafficking remained unknown, ‘there is a possibility that trafficking occurs in Namibia’ and that such a ‘potential covers both in-country and cross-border trafficking of children in commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work and commercial agriculture labour (TECT 2006:6).⁸⁷

TECT 2006 culminated in a TECT 2007 qualitative study on the linkage between child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children and child labour (Terry 2007:13-18). The study which had a sample of 63 key informants, 22 child victims of child trafficking and child labour, and 23 focus group discussions was conducted in 11 towns of Walvis Bay, Oshikango, Oshakati, Outjo, Otiwarongo, Mariental, Luderitz, Okakarara, Gobabis, Rundi, Katima Mulilo and Windhoek. It found that while none of the stakeholders could cite the official

⁸⁷This is in accordance with the Implementation Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour programme in Namibia, 2004-2007 accessed from page 6 of TECL Programme Paper No. 11 of March 2006. ILO and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Programme Advisory Committee on Child Labour.

definition of trafficking, or knew about Namibian laws and policies on trafficking, two-thirds of the stakeholders felt that child trafficking exists in Namibia. 88 respondents out of 289 children in 23 focus group discussions had been trafficked within Namibia to work as domestic workers, livestock herders in the agriculture sector, road construction, vending, charcoal production, hawking and commercial sex workers. They included Angolan and Zambian children who were often brought into Namibia to work as livestock herders, child minders and domestic workers. Three out of 24 child victims of trafficking shared their trafficking life experiences.

The study concluded that ‘concrete cases and anecdotal evidence indicated the existence of both internal and cross-border child trafficking. It identified child sex trafficking in the form children engaged in transactional commercial sex work or exchange of sex work for food and material goods (clothes and household support) in shebeens, bars and hotel rooms.

Namibia’s latest baseline study whose main objective was to study sexual exploitation and women and child trafficking at the border town of Oshikango (Sechogele 2008:17) states that it did not gather statistical data on trafficking of women and children. It further states that its research team was unable to interview a person who was trafficked. Neither commercial sex workers, nor key informants could identify women or children who were trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation or who were in any form of exploitative employment. It claims that police, immigration and constituency officials had informed the research team that they had no cases of trafficked individuals at the Oshikango border post. All people who were re caught at the border or inside Namibia without relevant documentation such as passports were treated as illegal immigrants, and were deported. People whose cases were taken to the immigration tribunal or to the magistrate courts for hearings were likely to be deported or given the liberty to

leave the country within 48 hours on their own. Ironically, however, the report simultaneously states that it found sufficient evidence to suggest that trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation purposes occurs in Namibia.

The possible existence of human trafficking in Namibia was confirmed when on 12 December 2008, Immigration Officer Rebekka Hangada, the only witness called to the stand in Namibia's first ever suspected trafficking in persons case in Katutura Magistrate Court in Windhoek expressed worry that trafficking in persons had become increasingly prevalent in Namibia. Hangada, who was testifying in the case of 2 Tanzanian nationals (a man and his wife) who were arrested at Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport on suspicion of trying to traffick a 33-year old Kenyan national of Somali origin, together with her two children aged 6 and 4 years respectively said the number of people caught trying to leave Africa through Namibia and South Africa was rapidly increasing. The Somali suspected trafficking victim and her children were travelling on forged Irish Passports and were destined for Britain from Johannesburg (Denver, Isaacs, 2008:3).⁸⁸ She informed the Court that she had previously been married to a Congolese (DRC) truck driver who had subsequently deserted her during the Eastern Congo conflict, after which she had lived in Tanzania and Zambia. Hangada was concerned that, such incidents, if not detected and adequately dealt with, could spell disaster for Namibia's reputation abroad.

The existence of human trafficking in Namibia was further attested by the arrest and trial of a 61-year-old retired Namibian regional governor, Raymond Basika Matiti of Katima Mulilo, together with a Zambian man, Likando Likando, for bundling 4 children from Sinungu village in the Western Province of Zambia and trafficking them for farm labour, cattle herding and domestic

⁸⁸Denver Isaacs. 'Change of fortunes for Somali Woman.' The Namibian, Friday 12 December 2003:3 Windhoek.

work in Namibia. Senanga Police Station Officers who were manning a road block along Senanga-Sesheke road had apprehended Mutiti and Likando and rescued the 4 children aged between 9 and 20 years from Matiti's Toyota Hilux Registration No. N50KM.

On 1 October, 2009, Matiti had declared to the immigration officials at Wanela border post that he was going to visit relatives in Siama. However, he had instead been found in the Sinungu area of Senanga District, where, he admitted in Senanga Migisitrates Court, he had gone to Zambia to recruit the four children for farm labour, cattle herding and domestic work because he believed that Zambia and Namibia as SADC member countries were one and he liked the hard work Zambians put into the work they did.

Matiti and Likando were charged for contravening CAP 87 of Section 143 of Act 15 of the Laws of Zambia which outlaws human trafficking. If convicted, they faced a minimum imprisonment sentence of 20 years.⁸⁹

Despite indications of possible existence of human trafficking in Namibia, the Ministry of Gender Equity and Social Welfare points to lack of comprehensive empirical research on trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes in Namibia (Tjaronda, Wezi 2009:5).

2.9. The Consequences of Human Trafficking in Namibia

As has been articulated in the preceding chapters, the need for research to establish the existence of human trafficking in Namibia, and its possible connection to sexual exploitation stems from the challenges they pose to society. Such challenges are, in part, underscored by the Government

⁸⁹ZANIS. 'Zambia: Namibian nabbed for trafficking four Zambian children.' Monday, 24 August, 2009:1. Lusaka on <http://www.lusakatimes.com/?p=16992> downloaded 12 February 2010 1200 hours

of the Republic of Namibia (GRN)'s belief that there exists a strong link between sexual exploitation in the form of prostitution and social and economic mobility.⁹⁰

Indeed, the Government's assertion is supported by Stand Together, a Windhoek-based Catholic support and care project for prostitutes and their children which found that 74% of close to its 12,500 members were HIV positive. It is reiterated by Legal Assistance Centre (LAC)'s categorization of prostitutes together with prisoners and homosexuals who are part of a sidelined group of people within the rim of the national HIV/AIDS interventions.⁹¹

These concerns are exacerbated by other sources which show that both human trafficking and sexual exploitation are highly hazardous to their victims' psychic, health and physical integrity. Kiremire (2002:36)'s Zambian study reported that many of the young girls and women involved in sexual exploitation and affected by sex trafficking experienced life threatening situations that included physical violence, exposure to, and high consumption of illicit drugs, and wild competition from both their traffickers and exploiters. They are reflected in what a 26-year-old respondent of her study referred to as 'simply horror':

'The problem has grown too big; it is out of hand. Nobody can manage it. The syndicate is too sophisticated! The money is big. There are big people involved. The girls are now going to the Car City ---! We have Websites at Computer Business Centres in big Hotels. We organize visas with no problems - a mere US\$2,000 for each girl. I can't be in TV. I have to protect my clients. They will even recognize my voice. It is simply horror' (Kiremire 2002:33).

⁹⁰Sibeene, Petronella. 'Call to target village sex workers.' New Era, 22 June 2006:4. Windhoek.

⁹¹SPACE Magazine of June 2006.

Kiremire (2002:33) points to the fact that it is not only those individuals trapped in sex trafficking and sexual exploitation that face danger. The development workers who try to implement anti prostitution/sex trafficking programmes face high risks too. She cites two incidents of harassment and threatened violence her research team encountered in two night clubs they were researching in Lusaka City. She further cites the case of a Catholic Missionary Nun found brutally murdered in cold blood in her apartment in Mozambique's Northern City of Nampula for unveiling hundreds of children murdered for their organs for export. An international media organisation which reported the incident described the challenges individuals and organizations who dare to work against human trafficking in Africa today as grave.⁹²

The United Nations Interim Resident Coordinator in Namibia attributes the phenomenon of trafficking in persons in Namibia to poverty and discrimination which force their victims to jump at promises of well-paying jobs abroad or elsewhere within the country by family networks, friends or recruitment agencies. Such victims are mainly people 'from poorer areas where opportunities are limited'. Unfortunately, they eventually find that the work they were promised does not exist and they are forced instead to work in jobs or conditions to which they did not agree'.⁹³

Zanobia (2007:77) agrees with this notion when she states:

"Factors such as poverty, lack of educational and employment opportunities, large supply of potential persons to be trafficked, and hopes for a better future elsewhere create fertile

⁹² BBC News on BBC website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/world/africa/3493016.stm> downloaded on of 27 February, 2004.

⁹³Nampa. 'United Nations Interim Resident Coordinator in Namibia on the launch of the National Gender- Based- Violence Campaign at Oshikango in Ohangwena Region.' New Era, Wednesday 5 August 2009:1. Windhoek.

ground for human traffickers. Youngsters (male and female) can easily be lured away because of their vulnerable positions”.

State Protections against Sexual Exploitation: Kiremire (2007:19) cites Namibia’s exemplary constitution, legislative and policy protections against sexual exploitation:

‘Namibia is renowned, both in Africa and internationally for its outstanding human rights centred Constitution with a Bill of rights that guarantees its citizens wide-ranging rights, legal guidance and safety, while its exemplary policies aim to ensure equitable sexual and gender relationships’.

Constitutional and Legal Protections

a) **Article 9** of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia protects all citizens against social and economic exploitation in the form of slavery, servitude and forced labour.

b) **Article 95** obligates the state to ensure the protection and welfare of all people, even in the face of abuse and exploitation;

c) **Article 15** protects children against economic exploitation.

Judicial Protections - Chomba (2008:204) points to the steady progress Namibia has made in enacting up to 15 pertinent legislative acts that can be used to seek redress for victims of human trafficking in the country (Gender Watch 2008:5). These include: ⁹⁴

1. The Extradition Act No. 11 of 1996 which prohibits use of children for purposes exploitation;

⁹⁴The 15 pieces of prostitution-related legislative Acts are listed on Page 183 of this Thesis.

- 2. The Indecent Photographic Matter Act No. 37 of 1967** which makes it an offence to possess indecent or obscene photographic materials;
- 3. The Combating of Immoral Practices Act No. 2 of 1980** and its amendment No. 7 of 2000, which prohibit prostitution and other acts pertaining to immoral practices relating to possession of pornographic materials;
- 4. Government Notice No. 9 of 1930** and its **amendment No. 27 of 1994** on Section 12 and 16 of the Municipal Street and Traffic Regulations which prohibit street loitering and soliciting for purposes of prostitution; and
- 5. Married Persons Equality Act No. 1 of 1996** which guarantees equality within marriage.
- 6. Employment Act No. 29 of 1998**, which embodies the Policy of Affirmative Action, functionalizes articles 10 and 23 of the National Constitution by providing for the achievement of equal opportunity in employment;
- 7. International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Act No. 9 of 2000** which facilitates the provision of evidence, the confiscation and transfer of the proceeds of crime and the execution of sentences in criminal cases;
- 8. Combating of Rape Act No. 8 of 2000**, which combats and prescribes minimum sentences for rape;
- 9. Common Law crime of Sodomy and Unnatural Sexual Offences** criminalizes anal intercourse between males.

10. Combating of Domestic Violence Act No. 4 of 2003, which combats domestic violence offences;

11. Maintenance Act No. 9 of 2003, which guarantees child care and support;

12. Criminal Procedure Act No. 24 of 2004 which recognizes individuals under the age of 18 years and those against whom an offence of a sexual or indecent nature is committed as vulnerable witnesses;

13. The Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) of 2004 which criminalizes human trafficking and punishes convicted offenders (Tjaronda 2009:3).⁹⁵

14. The Children's Status Acts No. 33 of 1960 and No. 6 of 2006 meant to combat child prostitution by making it an offence for a parent, guardian or custodian of a child to cause or conduce or allow a child to reside in a brothel as well as safeguarding the interests of dependent and minor children of void or voidable marriages; and

15. Labour Acts 15 of 2004 and 11 of 2007 both which prohibit children below 18-years of age from skilled labour.

Notably though, against all these legal gains, the latest report on prostitution in Namibia entitled 'Rights not Rescue' which was recently launched in Windhoek under the sponsorship of the Open Society Initiative Southern Africa (OSISA 2009:3) chronicled a wide range of human rights abuses and lack of safe and supportive working conditions for prostitutes in the country.

Challenges to the Legal and Judicial Protections

⁹⁵POCA was enacted in 2004 and finally came into force on 5 May 2009.

a) Limitations of the Laws

Kiremire (2007:19) notes that whereas prostitution is illegal, there is no specific legislation to prosecute it. She finds that while ‘soliciting’ is not limited to any specific gender, in practice it is only vendors of prostitution that the Municipality regulation targets, and hardly ever, prostitution customers’.

It is important to note that apart from the Labour Act of 2007 which prohibits forced labour, and other existing laws prohibiting child labour, child prostitution, pimping and kidnapping, Namibia presently has legislation relevant to human trafficking. The Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) of 2004 classifies human trafficking as a crime and subsequently prohibits, criminalizes and prosecutes and punishes its convicted offenders to up to 50-years’ imprisonment or N\$1 million fine (Tjaronda, Wezi 2009:3)’.

However, it is also important to note that the delayed operationalization of POCA from 2004 when it was enacted to 5 May 2009 when it was finally operationalized rendered victims of trafficking in persons in Namibia defenceless as none of the prevailing common laws were adequate to address trafficking in persons.

Before and during the period this legislation was pending government completion of its drafting, announcing and implementing regulations, those suspected of trafficking people could only be prosecuted under the common law, while their victims could only be charged under the Immigration Act for illegal migration and/or use of illegal documents if they were using forged travel documents.

Conversely, contrary to the provision of the Palermo Protocol to which Namibia is signatory, POCA remains silent on both child trafficking and TIP victims. In addition, it does not provide for victim assistance and repatriation and places responsibility on the victim receiving country rather than on the sending country.⁹⁶

In the absence of these critical provisions though, Chomba (2008:204) advances that since Article No. 144 of the Namibian Constitution provides for direct application of the international laws at State Party level, Namibia could, in essence, directly apply the international law. However, he goes on to point out that such redress would not be possible since none of the international conventions include punitive clauses, a situation which makes it practically impossible to implement these international conventions at the local level outside existing local legislative, judicial and administrative mechanisms.

It is equally important to note that despite the existence of the Employment Act no. 29 of 1998 which promotes affirmative action as a means of eliminating social and economic disparities, inequality in Namibia remains a major problem. The majority of the population, close to 95%, still face discrimination in terms of access to property, employment and health. This might explain the fact that of the 230 respondents of this research sample, only 1 was from the previously advantaged social group. Perhaps it such limitations that make prostitutes Scholastica Xoagoses and Nicodemus Auchamub (popularly known as Mama Africa) believe that prostitutes in Namibia don't feel that they enjoy equal legal protections as other members of the society (OSISA 2009:3).⁹⁷

⁹⁶Direct interview with a Law Reform Officer on 23 April 2009

⁹⁷At the launch of a new report on prostitution entitled 'Rights not Rescue' that chronicles human rights abuses and lack of safe and supportive working conditions suffered by male, female, transgender and juvenile sex worker in

(b) Definitional Inconsistency and/or Contradictions

An issue which posed a problem to this study was the inconsistencies in the legal definitions of some key terms. For example, whereas the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC), together with the Namibian Constitution define a child as any person up to 18 years of age, who must be protected against all forms of abuse and exploitation in terms of work, ILO convention No. 82 only outlaws the Worst Forms of Child Labour between 6 and 14 years. In the same vein, the Labour Act No. 11 of 2007 permits child work between 14 and 16 years with the exception of night and underground work.

(c) Policy Protections - Despite the above legal limitations, it is equally important to note that Namibia has made significant progress in terms of national policy provisions for the advancement of its women and girls. They include the establishment and implementation of the following:

1. The Office of the Ombudsman;
2. The Ministry of Gender Equity and Child welfare;
3. The Affirmative Action for equality of opportunity for women; and
4. A National Gender Policy (NGP), together with its corresponding Plan of Action (PA) whose purpose is to promote the empowerment of women and to counter violence against women and girls:
 - a) Reducing female poverty, particularly in rural areas,
 - b) Achieving education and training-based gender balance,

Namibia in Windhoek sponsored by Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA), prostitutes Scholastica Xoagoses and Nicodemus Auchamub (popularly known as Mama Africa) pointed to poverty as the main pushing factor into prostitution.

- c) Improved access to quality reproductive health services,
- d) Reducing violence against women and children,
- e) Improved gender-based information, education and communication,
- f) Achieving gender-based decision-making balance,
- g) Increased gender-based environment management, and
- h) Improving legal protections for women and girls.

(d) Care and Support Service Delivery - Although this study was not able to identify any human trafficking-specific service delivery projects and/or programmes, either at Government or Civil Society level, it nonetheless found two activities that are targeting prostitutes:

- a) Stand-Together - a drop-in-centre run by Catholic Church distributes food to some Windhoek-based prostitutes and their children; and
- b) The King's Daughters - a community-based NGO that was initiated by the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN), in conjunction with BEN Namibia (Bicycling Empowerment Network) provides counselling, rehabilitation, support and skills training to former commercial sex workers.⁹⁸

In addition, a number of Government-initiatives were in place:

⁹⁸On Friday 20 March 2009, the King's Daughters, supported by BEN (Bicycling Empowerment Network) Namibia, together with Australian AID launched a Second-hand Bicycle refurbishing shop in the Council of Churches of Namibia (CCN) premises in Katutura.

c) Women and Child Protection Unit (WCPU) - steered by a National Technical Committee consisting of both government and other stakeholders such as NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Law Enforcement Agencies, Human Rights Organizations and health institutions;

d) In June 2007, the Ministry of Gender Equity and Child Welfare run a one week Women's Conference on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), whose deliberations culminated in the Government launch of a national campaign dubbed Zero-Tolerance against Gender-Based Violence including Human Trafficking in the Oshikango Boarder Post town with Angola on 1 August 2009;⁹⁹

f) In January 2008 the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare run a national conference on Child Labour in Namibia;

g) 16-Days of Gender Activism Campaigns;

h) In accordance with the 2002 Namibia Tax Consortium (NAMTAX) recommendations and the 2005 Basic Income Grant Social Justice Lobby Coalition comprising churches, trade unions, NGOs and AIDS services organisations, in January 2008 the Government of the Republic of Namibia commenced the implementation of a pilot BIG (Basic Income Grant) in Otjivero Village of Omitara District in Eastern Namibia. The grant whose aim is to alleviate poverty provides a non-conditional N\$100 per month to all the village residents below the age of 60 years of age. It complements the universal national old-age pension scheme of N\$450 per month for nationals above 60 years of age (LaRRI 2009:52); and

⁹⁹In March 2009, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) published and distributed a pamphlet entitled "Human Trafficking/Trafficking in Persons".

i) SANTAC (2007:11), a network of NGOs working against the abuse and trafficking of children in Southern Africa, of which Namibia is a member, has listed Namibia as having introduced a special course that promotes gender-awareness at the Police Training Centre.

Constraints to Service Delivery: The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare acknowledges that one of the main constraints to service delivery is an inadequate number of social workers. Currently Namibia has only 64 social workers. They need an additional 44 to meet the country's basic needs.¹⁰⁰

(d) The link to the 2010 FIFA World Cup Games - 'Rights Not Rescue' Report (OSISA, 2009:3) links continuously raising levels of poverty in rural and urban communities to raising levels of prostitution and sexual exploitation, and many young girls and women targeting 2010 FIFA World Cup Games for improved incomes.¹⁰¹

2.10. Conclusion

Despite lack of adequate existing information to determine the existence, extent and impact of sex trafficking in Namibia, a vigorous search by this researcher located a number of research reports on the subject matter in a number of neighbouring countries in the Sub-Saharan region and at the continental level. Indeed, most of these reports imply that there exist sufficient indications that Namibia is affected by the regional network of trafficking in persons in general, and sex trafficking in particular.

¹⁰⁰Nampa. 'Ausiku lays bare her ministry's problems.' New Era, Tuesday, 23 February 2010:7. Windhoek.

¹⁰¹At the launch of a new report on prostitution entitled 'Rights not Rescue' that chronicles human rights abuses and lack of safe and supportive working conditions suffered by male, female, transgender and juvenile sex worker in Namibia in Windhoek sponsored by Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA), prostitutes Scholastica Xoagoses and Nicodemus Auchamub (popularly known as Mama Africa) pointed to poverty as the main pushing factor into prostitution.

It is of vital importance to note that Namibia's forward looking national strategic plan of action for the next two decades has underpinned the need for equitable spread of tangible benefits to all the segments of the society as a critical challenge.

In addition, Namibia's national strategic plan singles out and cautions against the possibility of the type of social and economic development that 'undermines the country's future potential and life support system rather than serving to build national and local capital' at all levels of human endeavour including human and social capital. It is here that Namibia's determination to confront possible social and economic vulnerability to vices such as trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation manifests.

However, literature reviewed also indicates that Namibia as a society in transition primarily from a rural-based subsistence to mainly urban-based industrial economy, and from a century-long colony to a socially, economically and politically independent state carries deep rooted elements of social and economic vulnerability. Considered in this historical perspective, Namibia, just like its immediate neighbouring nations of Zimbabwe and South Africa, is not only Africa's last independent state, but it suffered the Continent's worst elements of substantive and emotive social and economic injustices. These injustices were grave in that they were steeped in institutionalized social segregation and discrimination. For example the contract labour system which, for many decades, enforced indentured labour in Namibia, did not only directly and indirectly break down the country's traditional systems and cultural values, but families and communities. In addition, it resulted in uncontrollable rural and urban poverty. Literature referred to both at sub-regional and regional levels associate poverty to the new phenomenon of

prostitution and sex trafficking for exploitation purposes. It is this glaring gap that this study sought to contribute towards narrowing in Namibia.

It was against this background that whereas the original purpose of this research was to investigate the existence, prevalence and magnitude, causes and impact of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation on the Namibian society as a whole, due to the difficulty and risks involved in penetrating an activity largely imbedded in high criminality levels such as human trafficking, the researcher decided to investigate trafficking of prostitutes, with the assumption that prostitutes are easy targets for trafficking into further exploitative commercial prostitution.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1. Site Selections and Descriptions¹⁰²

Background to the Country of the Study - According to the Republic of Namibia's Vision 2030 (GRN 2004:25) the Namibian nation is a large mass of mainly arid land of 842,000 square kilometres, which comprises 3% of the entire African Continent. It is situated in south western Africa between 17.30 S and 29 S degrees latitudes and 12 E and 25 E degrees longitudes. It is bordered by 5 of the 14 SADC countries of South Africa to its south, Botswana to its east, Angola to its north, and Zambia and Zimbabwe to its north east. Namibia enjoys a co-existence with the vast Atlantic Ocean on its West and 3 World famous magnificent deserts of Namib to its west, Kalahari to its East and Karoo to its south.

In March 1990 Namibia attained its sovereignty following 112 years of multiple colonialism, first by United Kingdom (UK) which, in 1878 annexed Walvis Bay Harbour, followed by Germany in 1884, and South Africa in 1920 when the League of Nations granted it administrative and legislative mandate over the country following Germany's defeat in World War 1 (Namibia Holiday and Tours 2009:8).

Prior to World War 1, Namibia, then known as German South West Africa (GSWA) and later as South West Africa (SWA), experienced severe occupation resistance wars, the most prominent of which was the 'Great War of Resistance of 1904-1908 which left approximately 80% of the ethnic populations (70% Herero, 50% Nama and 30% Damara) exterminated. The following map indicates the location of Namibia in the African Continent.

¹⁰²Statistics for this Overview derive from Vision 2030 and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) 2001 Population Census.



Map 3: Namibia's Geographical Location in the African Continent (GRN 200:xi).

The result was that the defeated and/or surviving populations were restricted to ‘Police Zones’ which were later converted into ‘native reserves’ where they were not allowed to own cattle and from where they were forced to work on ‘colonial masters’ farms as ‘indentured labour’ (GRN 2004:28).¹⁰³

Namibia is divided in 13 regions of Khomas in its Centre, Omaheke in its East, Otjozondjupa, Kavango and Caprivi in its North East), Oshikoto, Omusati and Ohangwena in its North, Erongo in its West), Kunene in its North West and Hardap and Karas in its South (GRN 2009:xii).

In 2001, Namibia was estimated to have a population of 1.83 million inhabitants, with a population growth rate of 2.6% per annum. It had a fertility rate of 4.1 children per woman, which represented 2 persons per square kilometre, and 0.2% of the entire African population of close to 900 million people.

It is noteworthy that the Namibian population features both a gender and youthful face, with the majority, 51.5% being women compared to 48.5% men and 50% young people below 20 years of age. Similarly, whereas in 1936, only 10% of the Namibian population was urbanite, 7 decades later, close to half (40%+) of its people live in its towns and cities. Of the 60% rural dwellers, 44% are classified as females-headed households, while 39% of the urban households are headed by females. The map below shows the 13 regions of Namibia and their respective populations.

¹⁰³Represents a contract by which a person agrees to work for a set period for a colonial landowner in exchange for passage to the colony.



Map 4: The 13 Regions of Namibia and their Population Distributions (GRN 2009: xii)

Between 80 and 90% of the Namibian Society is Christian, dominated by the Lutheran Church which covers 50% of the entire nation's population. The Roman Catholic Church follows with one fifth, followed by Dutch Reformed and Anglican Churches with another 5% each, in addition to the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Pentecostal churches (Namibia Holidays and Tours 2009:20).

The World Bank has classified Namibia as an ‘upper-middle income’ country, currently with an estimated GNI per capita of around US\$4,210 (Atlas method).¹⁰⁴ As the World’s 4th and 5th producer of diamonds and uranium respectively, in addition to other minerals that include lead, zinc, tin, silver and tungsten, Namibia, has, for the past 5 year consecutive years, enjoyed a steady annual real GDP average economic growth rate of 5.7% of US\$ 8,000 million and a GNI per capita of US\$4,210. Its mining sector which accounts for 8% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) provides more than 50% of its foreign currency exchange revenue and employs 3% of its population. Approximately 50% of the rest of its population depends on subsistence agriculture, fisheries and farming. Currently, Namibia is estimated to have an inflation rate of 6.3%. It imports over 50% of its cereal requirements.¹⁰⁵

To date, the agriculture sector is the biggest single employer in Namibia, accounting for 20.3 per cent of all employed people in the country (Namibia Holiday and Tours 2009:11). In addition, many Namibians in the rural areas still depend on the agriculture sector for their livelihood. To date, 38.5 % of rural households depend on subsistence farming. This reveals that agriculture is the mainstay of the economic activity for many people in Namibia as they depend on it for their livelihood and survival (especially for poor people in rural areas) or for commercial purposes. According to Namibia Child Activities Survey (NCAS 1999:3), more than three quarters of poor people in Namibia depend on subsistence agriculture.

Namibia stands among the World’s countries with the largest social and economic disparities imbedded in racial, gender, ethnic, education and class inequalities with a Gini-Co-Efficiency of

¹⁰⁴Staff Reporter. ‘Annual Address of Mr. T.K. Alweendo, Governor of the Bank of Namibia.’ The Namibian, Friday 13 November 2009:21. Windhoek.

¹⁰⁵Economy Watch, Investment and Finance Reports <http://www.economywatch.com/> downloaded on 13 September 2009.

0.63 (LaRRI 2009:6).¹⁰⁶ According to the United Nations Development Report of 2009, Namibia's Human Development Index currently stands at 0.686 with a ranking of 128th out of world 182 countries.¹⁰⁷ 5% of the total population is estimated to own 78.7% of its total income, ranging from N\$300,000 and above for civil service, parastatal and private companies managers per year. Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI: 2009:6) estimates that 'it would take a minimum wage earner 151 years to earn what their boss earns in one year'.¹⁰⁸ One fifth (5th) of the population which represents the poorest portion of the population live on approximately 14.6% of the total national income at N\$600 and less. 0.1% earns N\$33,000 per month and above,¹⁰⁹ while the 15% poorest account for only 1% of the National Expenditure against 5.6% richest who account for 53% of the National Expenditure.¹¹⁰

Namibia Demographic and Health Survey of 2006/7 (GRN 2008:10) reports that 28% of the households in Namibia are either poor or severely poor, spending as much as 60% of their incomes on food. According to 2008 Review of Poverty and Inequality in Namibia,¹¹¹ acute malnourishment can be identified in about 7% of children in which wasting is recognized, while one in five children younger than five years are chronically and acutely undernourished.

¹⁰⁶In mid 1990s Namibia's Gini-Co-Efficiency of 0.70 was the largest in the World, followed by Brazil and South Africa. The latest UN Human Development ranks Namibia's current inequality rate the World's highest ahead of Comoros, Botswana, Haiti, Angola, Colombia, Bolivia and South Arica.

¹⁰⁷http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_NAM.html downloaded on 13 February 2010 at 0900 hours.

¹⁰⁸Nangula Shejvali. 'Human story lost behind poverty figures.' The Namibian, Friday 16 October 2009:3. Windhoek.

¹⁰⁹Catherine Sasman. 'Inequality report: A Sorry tale of perpetual divide.' New Era, Friday 11 September 2009:23. Windhoek.

¹¹⁰Nangula Shejvali. 'Human story lost behind poverty figures.' The Namibian, Friday 16 October 2009:3. Windhoek.

¹¹¹Ndilikokule Thomas. 'Infant mortality rate still high in Namibia.' Namibian Sun, Thursday 25 June 2009:2. Windhoek.

Unlike most Sub Saharan African nations whose life expectancy at birth averages 40 years for women and 37 years for men, the Namibian population enjoys a higher life expectancy which stands at 50 years for women and 48 years for men. It has a birth rate of 34.1 and a death rate of 19.17 per 1,000 respectively. However Namibia also ranks among the top 10 world suicidal nations.¹¹²

While Namibia has one of sub-Saharan Africa's lowest infant and child mortality rates at 49 and 69 per 1,000 births respectively compared to an average of 99 for the rest, the United Nations system still maintains that Namibia, like her sister nations, is still eluded by an ever increasing high infant and child mortality rates. Neither is anticipated to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing infant mortality to 38 and under-five mortality to 45 deaths per 1,000 live births by the year 2012.

The situation is aggravated by maternal deaths which, instead of anticipated reduction to 337 by the year 2012, steadily increased from 225 deaths in 1993 to 271 in 2000 and doubled to the current 449 deaths per 10,000 live births.¹¹³ This results in an average of 180 women dying from pregnancy related complications annually with a further 30 suffering from serious complications and lifelong morbidities. In turn 3 to 10 of these women's orphaned infants face the prospect of dying within the first 2 years of their lives (UNICEF Namibia. 2009:2).

¹¹²In September 2009, one of Namibia's leading dailies, New Era, quoted the Minister of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) Hon. Dr. Kamwi, as informing the first ever 2-day workshop on Suicide in Namibia organized by the Directorate of Social Welfare Services in Windhoek that Ohangwena Region with 118 suicidal deaths and 84 attempted cases over a period of 2 years between 2007 and 2009 was the leading suicidal region in the country. Okavango Region followed with 82 cases of suicide deaths and 131 attempted cases between 2004 and 2009, and Otjozondjupa Region and Omaheke Region with 77 and 46 attempted suicide cases between 2007 and 2009 respectively. Suicide cases cut across the spectrum of the society, ranging from 5 children below 10 years of age, 2 Swakopmund High School learners aged 13 and 14 years respectively and a 108-year-old grandmother in Omusati Region. The Minister, who attributed such high rates of suicide in the country to poverty, high unemployment, break up in relationship and alcohol and drug abuse pointed to the main methods of suicide to taking poison and medicine (tablet) overdoses.

¹¹³Weizi Tjaronda. 'Maternal deaths increase'. New Era, Tuesday 23 June 2009:1. Windhoek.

Furthermore, there is an expressed concern that **HIV/AIDS**, whose prevalence rate was estimated at 20% in 2004, is one of the most daunting development challenges the nation faces. Approximately 200,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS, 70,000 of whom are receiving free anti-retroviral treatment.¹¹⁴ According to UNICEF in Namibia (2009:2) HIV/AIDS combines with malaria to account for 40% of maternal deaths in Namibia.

The pandemic has the prospect of impacting negatively on the country's hard earned positive gains as it is expected to result in large number of children dying before the age of 5 years and many more orphaned by the death of one or both parents. Prime Minister Nahas Angula attributes the high child mortality rates to 'opportunistic infections primarily because the children are undernourished.'¹¹⁵ AIDS annually kills approximately 15,000 persons, resulting in high orphan-hood and 16.5% child-headed households.¹¹⁶

On a more positive note however, whereas Namibia is predominantly a desert, in 2003, 87% of its population had access to safe water.

On the other hand, whereas Namibia enjoys a high literacy rate of 81% with 84.4% for males and 83.7% for females, it correspondingly depicts a high school-drop-out rate which averages over 60% per year for Grade 10 learners. In 2004 out of a total of 48,870 learners who sat their Grade 10 examination, only 13,777 were able to progress to Grade 11, leaving 15,600 learners in the cold.

¹¹⁴Brigitte Weidlich. 'Implementation of AIDS Policies Slow.' The Namibian, Wednesday 24 February 2010:5. Windhoek.

¹¹⁵Namibian Prime Minister Nahas Angula, together with the Acting United Nations Resident Representative launched the latest United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Progress Report in Windhoek on Monday June 22 2009.

¹¹⁶Wezi Tjaronda. 'Unemployment rising'. New Era, Tuesday 16 June 2009:1. Windhoek.

In 2001 the Namibian labour force comprised of 540,000 economically active persons. 260,000 were informal sector participants, while 350,000 were economically inactive persons who constituted students, homemakers who were mainly women, pensioners, disabled persons and sick or unemployed youths. The majority were females. By 2007, the country's labour force was estimated to have increased to 660,000. It comprised 47% in agriculture,¹¹⁷ 29% in industry and 33% services. 50% of the household incomes depended on wages and salaries as the main income source, 60% of whom had no secondary source of income. On average, female annual income was 50% less than male income.¹¹⁸

In 2004, Namibia's unemployment rate was estimated at the high rate of 36.7%, 39% of whom were women and over 60% youths. The latest National Labour Force Survey of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (GRN 2009) indicates that the unemployment rate has since escalated to 51.2%, with the majority (58%) being women compared to 44% unemployed men. The survey further showed that 61.4% of the unemployed women lived in informal settlements (LaRRI, 2009).¹¹⁹ This number was fuelled by some 20,000 laid off at NAMDEB as a result of the Global recession which affected Namibia's diamond sales. They serve to perpetuate poverty, social and economic inequality in terms of lack of educational opportunities and vulnerability among the country's youths aged between 15-30-years who take their brunt.¹²⁰

Table 3: Summary of Namibia's Social and Economic Performance Indicators

No	Description	Unit
1	Population (2009) million	2.1
2	Average population growth rate (2003-2007)	1.1%
3	Population density (persons/sq. km)	2.5

¹¹⁷Despite Namibia having a strong mining sector this sector only accounts for 3% of its employment opportunities.

¹¹⁸[www://infoplease.com/ipa/A0107812.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107812.html) downloaded on 24.2.2009

¹¹⁹Staff Reporter. 'Annual Address of Mr. T.K. Alweendo, Governor of the Bank of Namibia.' The Namibian, Friday 13 November 2009:21. Windhoek.

¹²⁰[www://infoplease.com/ipa/A0107812.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107812.html) downloaded on 24.2.2009

4	National Economic Status	Upper-middle-income
5	Unemployment rate of total labour force	37%
6	Gross Domestic Product (million - current USD) 2008)	8,000
7	GNI per capita Income (current USD per Atlas method)	4,210
8	Real GDP average growth rate (2004-2008)	5.7%
9	Average inflation, consumer prices (2004-2008)	6.3%
10	Average exchange rate (1US\$ 2004-2008 – NAD)	7.0
11	Gini-co-efficiency	0.63
12	Human Development Index ¹²¹	0.686
12	People classified as poor ¹²²	28%
13	People classified as severely poor ¹²³	14%

3.2. Research Design

Demarcation of the Study - The research comprised two components:

1. The quantitative data that aimed to indicate the prevalence and extent of trafficking of prostitutes in Namibia, as well as those who traffick them; and
2. The qualitative data that aimed to indicate the profiles of the individuals or groups of people affected or involved, and the effects of such activities on them.

For validity and authenticity purposes, the research combined different social research information and collection techniques. To ensure adequately informed background, it first reviewed existing literature on trafficking in persons, prostitution and exploitation at local, regional and international levels.

Thus, because this study was both quantitative and qualitative in nature, the researcher then administered a standardized validated questionnaire to 230 respondents during face-to-face interviews in key areas of the country where she carried out systematic field observations. These

¹²¹The UN Human Development Index currently ranks Namibia 128 out of 182 world nations.

¹²²According to the Bank of Namibia poor means 4 individuals living under N\$262 per month.

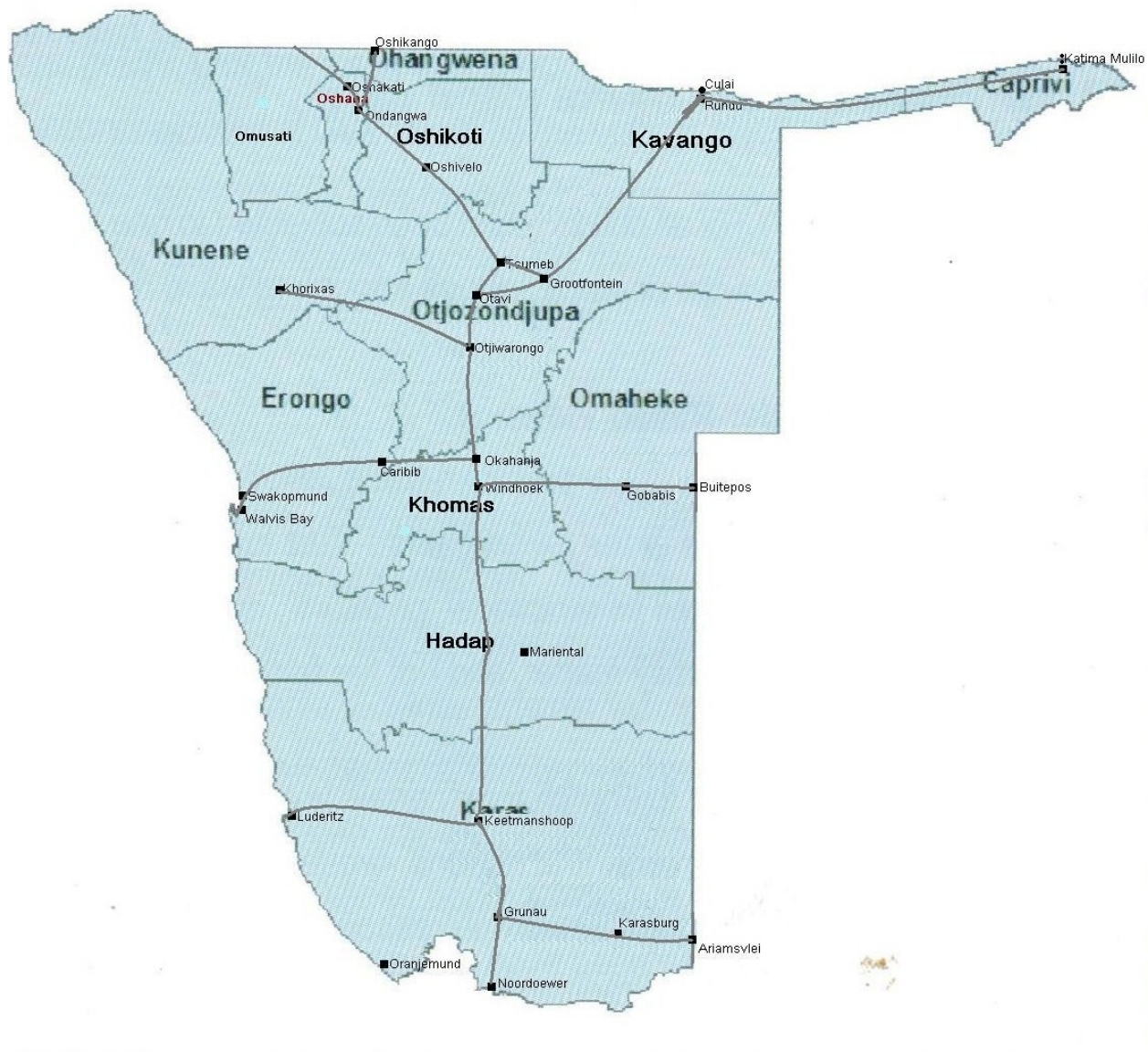
¹²³Bank of Namibia defines severely poor as households living on less than N\$185 per month.

included the country's capital City of **Windhoek** in Khomas Region; regional metropolises and border posts of **Oshakati** in Oshana Region, **Rundu** and **Culai** border post in Kavango Region, **Katima Mulilo** and **Wanela** Border Post in Caprivi Region, **Grunau**, **Karasburg**, **Keetmanshoop**, **Ludertiz Port** and **Ariamsvlei** and **Noordoewer** border posts in Karas Region; **Swakopmund** and **Walvis Bay Port** in Erongo Region; and **Oshikango** Boarder Post in Ohangwena Region, where she collected information provided by 7 Focus Group Discussion Meetings (FGDMs) and 60 key informants. She also compiled 20 case studies representing life stories of individuals who, according to their own or other people's testimonies, had been victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Initially, mainly due to time and both human and financial resources limitations, this research had restricted itself to specific towns and borders posts. However, due to information generated during data collection in the planned research sites which pointed to possible farm-labour-based trafficking, the researcher extended her observations to **Orangemund Grape Farms** and **Gobabis** and **Buidepos** Border Post in Omaheke Region. The need to fill this gap brought the total of research sites to 18.

Similarly, given the geographical location and centrality of Zambezi Bridge between East, Central and Southern Africa, in one instance, the researcher included two sites outside the Namibian border, in Livingston and Sesheke border post. This was particularly important given the planned African Regional Integration (ARI) which, while it aims to boast the region's social and economic development, is likely to simultaneously facilitate and serve as easy human

trafficking routes. The map below shows the regions, cities/towns and highways of the study.



Map 5: Regions, Highways, Cities, Towns and border post sites of the study

In the same vein, mindful of the fact that trafficking in persons is a fairly new trend and area of study in contemporary Africa in general, and in Namibia in particular, the researcher endeavoured to familiarize her respondents, key informants and focus group members with its relevant terms before she interviewed them. This approach took into consideration the fact

contemporary human trafficking is laced by a complex international definition that remains largely undomesticated. In this connection, she conducted training sessions for both her guides and potential respondents in all her research sites before she administered her research tools.

In addition, due to repeated inference to sex customers and sex trafficking, the researcher gathered and compiled detailed information on this study's respondents' sex customers.

3.3. Study Sample and Selection Procedures

Target Issues - This survey investigated sex trafficking in Namibia in terms of prevalence, incidence and extent through the levels of its respondents' current knowledge and understanding of the concept of trafficking in persons generally, and of sex trafficking in particular. In this respect, it divulged the respondents' comprehension of definitions of individual terms, sources of information, vulnerability, causes, legal and policy prevention and protection frameworks, and existing intervention mechanisms.

To this end, in realization of the fact that sex trafficking and sexual exploitation affect the most vulnerable members of society, namely, disadvantaged women, young adolescents and children, it became necessary and important to gain a good understanding of the lives, circumstances and experiences of this segment of social group. Accordingly, this research examined the trafficking of women, young adolescents and children in terms of vulnerability and exposure to sexual exploitation. In order to achieve this insight, the researcher sought to examine in detail and establish:

- 1) The general respondents' understanding of trafficking in persons, prostitution and exploitation;

- 2) Prevalence, extent, impact and causes of these social vices;
- 3) Availability of prevention and/or protection mechanisms in terms of legal, policy and service delivery; and
- 4) The manner in which the respondents think society should position and treat trafficking in persons, prostitution and exploitation in terms of the general understanding of the term trafficking in persons, the level to which respondents believed it occurs in the Namibian society, its causes, its perpetrators, its effects, and whether or not there exists interventions to prevent it or protect its victims and punish its perpetrators.

And for her to fully establish the linkage between sex trafficking, prostitution and exploitation, she first closely examined her target group's personal and collective lives in order to establish their particular vulnerability to sex trafficking and the role prostitution customers and alliances play in perpetrating it.

The Research Sample Size - Thus, the Researcher conducted a quantitative research comprising a total of 230 questionnaires in 18 cities/towns out of the 34 cities and towns in 8 of Namibia's 13 Regions.¹²⁴ Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7 below show the research sites by regions and towns of case studies, key informants and group discussion meetings participants by gender.

¹²⁴Qualitative data was also gathered in Karasburg , Ariamsvlei and Oranjemund in Karas Region, as well as the Eastern towns/border posts of Gobabis and Buitepos in Omaheke

Table 4: Data Sites and Respondents' Gender

No	Research Sites	Region	Frequency	Females	Males	Trans-sexual	Percent
1	Windhoek	Khomas	87	79	8	0	37.8
2	Walvis Bay	Erongo	37	32	4	1	16.0
3	Swakopmund		8	5	3	0	3.5
4	Oshikango		21	18	3	0	9.1
5	Oshakati	Oshana	17	12	5	0	7.4
6	Keetmanshoop	Karas	10	7	3	0	5.7
7	Karasburg)		12	10	2	0	5.2
8	Ariamsvlei)						
9	Noordoewer		7	4	3	0	3.0
10	Grunau		2	0	2	0	0.9
11	Orangemund						
12	Luderitz		13	8	5	0	4.3
13	Katima Mulilo	Caprivi	8	8	0	0	3.5
14	Sesheke						
15	Rundu	Kavango	8	8	0	0	3.5
16	Culai						
17	Gobabis	Omaheke	0	-	-	-	0.0
18	Buitepost		0	-	-	-	0.0
Total	18	8	230	191	38	1	100.0

Table 5: Case Studies Sources

Nr	City/Town	No of Case Studies	Female	Male
1	Walvis Bay	5	4	2
2	Windhoek	5	5	0
3	Katima Mulilo	5	5	0
4	Luderitz	2	0	2
5	Oshakati	1	1	0
6	Oshikango	1	1	0
Total	6 out of 18 research sites	20	15	4

Table 6: Key Informant Sources

Nr	Research Site	No of Key Informants	Females	Males
1	Luderitz	1	0	1
2	Sesheke	3	1	2
3	Katima Mulilo	1	1	0
4	Rundu	2	1	1
5	Keetmanshoop	8	1	7
6	Grunau	2	0	2
7	Windhoek	17	8	9
8	Karasburg	4	0	4
9	Ariamsvlei	4	2	2

10	Noordoewer	5	0	5
11	Orangemund Grape Farms	1	1	0
12	Swakopmund	3	2	1
13	Walvis Bay	5	0	5
14	Buitepos	3	2	1
15	Gobabis	1	0	1
Total	15	60	19	41

Table 7: Focus Group Discussion Meeting (FGDM) Sources

Nr	Research Site	Number of FGDM participants	Females	Males
1	Luderitz	12	10	2
2	Walvis Bay	10	8	2
3	Windhoek	8	6	2
4	Oshakati	12	7	5
5	Oshikango	17	13	4
6	Karasburg	5	4	1
7	Walvis Bay	7	7	0
Total	7	71	55	16

3.4. Methods of Data Collection

Data Sources - Cognisant of the invisibility and hence, the difficulty in breaking through to trafficking in persons as a subject of study, and accessibility to both its victims and perpetrators at national, regional and continental levels, this research targeted social groups that are believed to usually be vulnerable to such vices. It further targeted those segments of society that by virtue of their day-to-day duties and responsibilities, closely interact with such groups.

Interviewees therefore, included, but were not limited to prostitutes, tourists, ordinary travellers, tour operators, truck drivers, border authorities, traders, hotels/lodges/ bar/shebeen night-clubs operators and patrons as well as street children and youths. It also targeted law enforcement agents and government workers such as border personnel, shipping agents, health and social workers, representatives of regional and international organizations and development agencies and media houses.

The researcher also made close observations of people related to these issues in terms of their actions and activities and evaluated conventional information sources, mainly, newspapers, libraries and the Internet.

(a) Quantitative Data - Subsequently, in order to identify verifiable information regarding the existence, extent and impact of trafficking in persons in Namibia and whether, if it exists, it targets prostitutes specially for sexual exploitation within and beyond the Namibia borders, the researcher administered an open-close-ended questionnaire to 230 respondents aged between 10 and 49 years. These respondents, mostly prostitutes and/or people connected to prostitutes, were 188 females, 41 males and 1 trans-sexual in 15 of the 18 research locations in 7 out of the 13 regions of the Namibian Nation.

Table 8: Research Sites* from where only Key Informant Information was Collected

Nr	Research Sites	Region	Females	Males	Trans -Sexual	ST Knowledge Self Other ¹²⁵ No			Freque ncy	Percent	
1	Windhoek	Khomas	79 (38)	8 (1)	0	42	2	43	87	37.8	
2	Walvis Bay	Erongo	32 (10)	4 (2)	1 (1)	12	15	10	37	16.0	
3	Swakopmund		5 (0)	3 (0)	0	0	7	1	8	3.5	
4	Oshikango	Ohangwena	18 (5)	3 (0)	0	5	10	6	21	9.1	
5	Oshakati	Oshana	12 (2)	5 (0)	0	2	2	13	17	7.4	
6	Keetmanshoop	Karas	7 (2)	3 (0)	0	2	2	6	10	5.7	
7	Karasburg)		10 (3)	2 (0)	0	1	5	6	12	5.2	
8	Ariamsvlei)										
9	Grunau		0 (0)	2 (0)	0	0	0	2	2	3.0	
10	Noordoewer)		4 (0)	3 (0)	0	0	6	1	7	0.9	
11	Orangemund)										
12	Luderitz		8 (0)	5 (0)	0	1	4	8	13	4.3	
13	Katima Mulilo)	Caprivi	8 (3)	0 (0)	0	3	5	0	8	3.5	
14	Sesheke *										
15	Rundu)	Kavango	8 (1)	0 (0)	0	0	2	6	8	3.5	
16	Culai)										
17	Gobabis*	Omaheke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	
18	Buitepost*										
Total	18	8	191 (64)	38 (3)	1 (1)	68	60	102	230	100.0	

¹²⁵‘Other’ includes 38 (16.5%) respondents who knew trafficked friends and/or relatives as well as 22 (9.6%) who had just heard through friends and colleagues that sex trafficking happens in Namibia.

(b) Qualitative Data - Data results were also based on qualitative data that included information derived from in-depth interviews and compilation of 20 case studies, 60 key and stakeholder informants and 7 Focus Group Discussion Groups.

Case Studies - The 20 case studies were compiled in 7 research sites of Katima Mulilo, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, Oshakati, Oshikango, Walvis Bay and Windhoek). 16 were females aged between 16 and 40 years, against 4 males aged between 21 and 26 years. They represented 6 nationalities of Cameroon (1), Namibia (10), Angola (1), Rwanda (1), South Africa (3), Zambia (2) and Zimbabwe (2). Of the 20 individuals, 16 were in full time street prostitution (12 females, 1 dry queen and 2 male pimps), 1 operated a hair salon/cum prostitution brothel, 1 cleaner, one HIV/AIDS Peer Educator, while 1 had been rescued from 9-year-domestic-labour slavery. The following table presents a summary of case study sex trafficking knowledge.

Table 9: Summary of Case Study Sex Trafficking Knowledge

No	Research Site	Female	Male	Age	Nationality	Occupation	ST Relevancy
1	Walvis Bay	1	-	23	Namibia	HIV+ Peer Educator	ST Victim
2	Windhoek	1	-	32	Namibia	Cleaner	Teen Sister UK ST victim
3	Walvis Bay		1	21	South Africa	40 member Street Gang leader	Angolan friends TIP victims
4	Katima Mulilo	1	-	25	Namibia	HIV+ Street Prostitute	Trucks take friends
5	Katima Mulilo	1	-	28	Zimbabwe	HIV+ Street Prostitute	Internal ST Victim
6	Katima Mulilo	1	-	28	Namibia	HIV+ Street Prostitute	Trucks take friends
7	Katima Mulilo	1	-	27	Namibia	HIV+ Street Prostitute	Trucks take friends
8	Katima Mulilo	1	-	16/17	Zambian	Domestic slave labourer for 9 years	Sold and trafficked for domestic labour at 7/years old
9	Keetmanshoop	1	-	31	Namibia	HIV+ Street Prostitute	ST Victim to Cape Town
10	Windhoek	1	-	26	Zimbabwe	HIV+ Street Prostitute	ST Victim by prostitutes
11	Luderitz	-	1	26	South Africa	Ex Prisoner Prostitute Pimp	Trucks bring prostitutes
12	Luderitz	-	1	22	Namibian	Street Prostitute -Dry Queen	Trucks bring prostitutes
13	Windhoek	1	-	30	Cameroon	Street Prostitute	ST Victim

14	Windhoek	1	-	22	Zambia	HIV+ Street Prostitute	ST Victim
15	Oshakati	1	-	32	Rwandese	Shebeen Prostitute	ST Victim
16	Oshikango	1	-	17	Namibia	Pregnant Street Prostitute	Internal ST Victim
17	Walvis Bay	1	-	24	South Africa	Street Prostitute Female Pimp	Sex customers /Recruitment Agency took friends
18	Walvis Bay	1	-	40	Namibia	Hair Saloon/Brothel Operator	No ST knowledge
19	Walvis		1	19	Angolan	Pimp	Trafficked stowaway
20	Windhoek	1	-	36	Namibia	HIV+ Street Prostitute	ST Victim to SA
Total	7 out of 18 sites	15	4	16-40	6	4	-9 ST victims -7 friends ST Victims -1 Sister ST Victim -1 No -1 Pimp

Key Informants - The researcher and her guides interviewed 60 key informants, of whom 43 were males and 17 females aged between 22 and 62 years. The interviews were in 15 research sites in 6 Regions of **Khomas** (Windhoek - 16), **Erongo** (Swakopmund/Walvis Bay - 8), **Karas** (Keetmanshoop, Grunau, Karasburg, Ariamsvlei, Noordoewer, Luderitz, Oranjemund - 21), **Omaheke** (Gobabis, Buitepos - 4), **Caprivi** (Katima Mulilo/Sesheke - 4) and **Kavango** (Rundu - 2) from **7 nationalities** of **Namibia** (45), **South Africans** (5), **Zambia** (4), **Zimbabwe** (3), **Finland** (1), **Botswana** (1) and **Uganda** (1).

The 60 key informants represented 19 occupations in 13 sectors of **Law Enforcement** (11 Police, 7 Immigration, 3 Customs Officers); **Social Development** (13 - 4 international/9 local); **Transport** (4 truck drivers, 1 bus conductor, 3 petrol attendants); **Health** (3 HIV/AIDS Counsellors, 2 nurses); **Leadership** (1 civic leader, 2 youth leaders); **Labour** (2 inspectors); **Fisheries** (1 inspector); **Business entrepreneurship** (2 Lodge/Hotel Proprietors); **Legal and Judiciary** (1 lawyer and 1 judiciary officer); **Military** (1 army officer), **Media** (1 Journalist), and **Unemployed** (1 youth).

Table 10: Summary of Key Informants Profiles

No	Research Site	Female	Male	Age	Nationality	Occupation	ST Knowledge		
							Yes	Possible	No
60	15	17	43	22-62	7	21	44	15	1
Total	15 ¹²⁶	17	43		7	21	60		

Focus Group Meeting Discussions (FGDs) - Seven focus group discussion meetings were held in 6 out of the 18 research sites of **Karasburg, Luderitz, Oshakati, Oshikando, Walvis Bay, and Windhoek**. They comprised a total of 71 participants, of which 55 were females and 16 males. These included 6 research assistants (5 females and 1 male), 29 prostitutes, 5 Pimps (4 males, 1 female), 1 female Night Club proprietor, 2 bar attendants (1 male, 1 female), 3 male sex customers and 3 police officers (2 males and 1 females).

Table 11: Information Generated from Focus Group Discussion Meetings (FGDM)

Nr	Research Site	Participants	Females	Males	Conclusions Reached
1	Luderitz	12	10	2	There are indications that sex trafficking occurs in Namibia but lack of adequate knowledge and awareness about trafficking in persons as a social activity makes it difficult for communities to know its extent.
2	Walvis Bay	10	8	2	A number of this group's colleagues and some of their children have been victims of sex trafficking by seamen, truck drivers, employment recruitment agencies and prostitutes themselves.
3	Windhoek	8	6	2	Older prostitutes in their group deceive younger prostitutes in their countries and bring them to Namibia for prostitution.
4	Oshakati	12	7	5	Sex trafficking (trafficking for prostitution) and HIV are increasing. Since Namibia is 95% church-going, raising awareness in Churches could reduce these problems. There is an urgent need for cultural values change.
5	Oshikango	17	13	4	Sex Trafficking is rife and manifests, primarily in the form of young prostitutes from Namibia to Angola mainly by truck drivers, cross border traders and law enforcement agents from the Angolan side of the border.
6	Karasburg	5	4	1	Sex trafficking happens in Namibia and is fuelled by lack of life saving opportunities for young people. Government should create opportunities for young people and fully implement existing national policies meant to support and protect poor families.
7	Walvis Bay	7	7	0	Sex trafficking is happening in Namibia but both sex trafficking and prostitution cannot be stopped unless

¹²⁶Out of 18 research sites

					government creates jobs for unemployed school leavers and school drop outs.
Total	6	71	55	16	All agree that sex trafficking is happening in Namibia

Sex Customer Information - In order to better comprehend the connection between sex vendors, their customers and sex trafficking repeatedly mentioned by the respondents,¹²⁷ the researcher devoted a special section of this study to the sex customer.

(c) Institutions Visited - In addition to the above mentioned Namibian hot spots of prostitution and entry points of trafficking, in order to ensure a reliable data source, the researcher contacted transit towns and immigration and customs border posts, tourist, transport and airline companies, drug and law enforcement agencies and government ministries. She also visited regional and international development and United Nations (UN) agencies and social justice organisations and institutions including Faith-based (FBOs), Civil Society (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs and Community-based (CBOs) and Media Houses and academic institutions that deal with legal and human rights protection of the marginalized segments of society, especially women and young adolescents.

3.5. Data Collection Processes

Data Reliability and Validity - In order to ensure reliability and validity, the researcher adopted proven social research design, and applied triangulation, piloting and refinement of its data collection instrument. She compiled 20 case studies of people who gave evidence that they themselves had been directly affected by sex trafficking, or knew a close friend or a or relatives who had been affected. In addition, she interviewed and compiled information generated from

¹²⁷From narrations this researcher listened to in interviews with individual prostitutes, their customers and pimps, as well as key informants and focus discussion group meetings.

60 key informants, and 7 focus group discussion meetings. This made a total of 379 individuals talked to.

The researcher applied five different approaches for her quantitative and qualitative data collection. **First** she administered a standardized answer set questionnaire to 230 respondents; **second** she compiled 20 case studies based on voluntary stories from members of the groups who felt they wanted their particular experiences to be recorded, heard and shared; **Third** she compilation information she generated from interviews with 60 selected key informants either associated with the topic of the study by their careers or individual interest; **Fourth**, she recorded 7 Focus Group Discussion Meetings (FGDM), some of whom were female and male respondents to the administered questionnaire who were invited to join focus group discussions; and **fifth**, she interviewed selected key stakeholders¹²⁸ who were either individuals or as part of focus groups.

During the process, a tool of potential questions was utilized with semi-structured interviews which were adapted on a case-by-case basis to fit the particular respondent(s). Interviews were thus conducted with various government ministries and other governmental officials, INGOs, Civil Society, NGOs, CB Organisations members, traditional authorities and leaders, members of the private sector, as well as key individuals, and members of the target groups such truck drivers and prostitutes.

¹²⁸A key informant was defined as a person whose life activities were likely to get them in close proximity or interaction with potential or direct victims of sex trafficking; while a stakeholder was that who had an interest in the subject of sex trafficking such as representatives of Government ministries and departments, law enforcement agencies, development agencies and research organisations and institutions.

Unique Method: Interactive, participatory and capacitating - Because of risks characteristic of trafficking in persons, and the social stigma associated with prostitution generally, both which limit their accessibility, this researcher applied a unique research method she had developed for her two previous research projects, one on prostitution and trafficking in Zambia (Kiremire 2002) and the other on prostitution in Windhoek (Kiremire 2007).

This method requires that the research be preceded by identifying, selecting and training a group of the affected persons during which the researcher familiarizes them with simple interactive research methods and application of the data collection tools. Using this kind of interactive, participatory and capacitating method ensures establishment of trust between the researcher and her respondents. It further facilitates a cordial working relationship between respondents to respondents and ultimately enhances accessibility to areas and information that would otherwise be too difficult to penetrate and reach.

The Research Team - The research team comprised:

1. The Master of Arts (MA) candidate, and
2. 18 research assistants/guides who were selected from among prostitutes and/or suspected trafficking victims or key informants one in each place of study. The stories of some of these research guides form part of this study's qualitative data in the form of cases studies.

3.6. Methods of Data Analysis

This research applied both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis. With respect to the qualitative methods, the researcher used the research's open-ended questions to gain information on the trafficking of prostitutes for exploitation purposes from individuals or groups

of people who believed they had either directly or indirectly been affected. Efforts were made to understand the personal and family backgrounds of the victims, as well as their perceptions and attitudes towards their present situation. Such data features in the form of case studies, derived from the grounded theory and content analysis application.

Through the questionnaire's open-ended questions, the qualitative approach also served to capture the victims' social and working environment. Interviews with operators of shebeens, bars, restaurant, hotels, lodges, night clubs, gambling houses and border clearing houses offered further insight. The analysis of the statements made by transport sector players such as public and private transporters (bus/taxi/truck drivers), border traders, law enforcement agents (police, immigration and customs officers) allowed to get a fair understanding of how they themselves perceive, comprehend and interpret the problem under investigation.

From the quantitative angle, the information contained in the methods of the data analysis derived from its questionnaire's closed questions served to examine, present, describe and interpret its particular characteristics. It provided a sound statistical picture, validated by both its internal and external variables through tables, graphs, averages and proportions.

It is important to note here that the quantitative data analysis involved use of various statistical techniques such as the descriptive method that uses graphs and averages and proportions to examine data characteristics and relations among variable. Non-metric methods were used to determine the relationship between the various causal variables in sex trafficking and sex exploitation such as economic constraints (poverty, peer pressure, teenage pregnancies, family status and educational status) and outright greed. Numerical data was analyzed using the

Statistical Package for Social Science - SPSS (Pallant 2001). Thus the results were presented in both qualitative analysis and descriptive statistics.

Finally, the researcher used the results of these data to explain the findings of her study within contemporary sociological theories and thought, and arrived at some conclusions and recommendations on possible interventions and solutions.

3.7. Ethical Issues

In order to facilitate as much ease and openness, and to enhance accuracy and reliability of information, information gathering for this study was, as much as possible, organized in the target groups' own social living and operational environments which the researcher presumed likely to serve as trafficking recruitment points. They included prostitution hot-spots (bars/shebeens/taverns/gambling houses), restaurants, lodges, hotels, petrol stations, truck drivers rest points, riverbeds, highways), and prostitutes' dwelling places.

Similarly, due to the specific nature and characteristics of some members of the respondent groups such as street prostitutes, prostitution pimps, homeless street children, the research was sometimes carried out during the night. Subsequently, due to the risks involved in such circumstances, especially during the night, while simultaneously not creating fear among her target groups, the researcher oftentimes solicited the support and collaboration of security guards and night club and gambling houses owners, and sometimes plain-clothed law enforcers.

Thus, in accordance with Hoyle, Harris and Judd (2002), the researcher observed the ethics in social research. She subsequently encouraged and promoted voluntary participation among her

respondents and avoided coercing them for interviews and/or answers. She also strictly and without exception, adhered to confidentiality and individual persons' privacy. As the research questionnaires did not include spaces for respondents' identity, this ensured that the respondents remained anonymous and therefore, protected. More importantly, if any of the respondents did not feel comfortable to respond to any question, they were excused. In addition, the researcher ensured that all required clearances and approvals were secured. This was very important especially in cases of interviews with border personnel and other law enforcement agents. For physical protection of both the researcher and her study subjects, the researcher ensured that whenever she was in places she considered insecure, she was accompanied.

3.8. Limitations of the Study

Nature of Sex Trafficking, Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation as Underground and Dangerous Social Activities - The main limitation of this study was the fact that although both prostitution¹²⁹ and trafficking in persons are illegal activities under the Namibian law, to-date, there remains no specific stand-alone laws to comprehensively prosecute them. Hence, despite being fairly common, they both remain largely underground social activities which, while they involve a lot of criminality and generate a lot of social intolerance and stigma, they are hardly ever prosecuted in Courts of Laws. The result is that researching sex trafficking is both difficult and dangerous, which is perhaps why, to-date, it remains scantily researched and documented.

¹²⁹The Prevention of Organized Crime Act of 2004 neither makes mention of children, nor provide details on the protection of victims.

Subsequently, in order for the researcher to reach out to as many prostitutes and their sex clients and agents (truck drivers, pimps, drug clients) as possible, she sometimes had to use local transport means such as taxis and long distance buses, often times at night. The consequence was that, she often times, expected some level of difficulty in generating adequate information and encountered a considerable measure of insecurity which at times suggested renunciation of sources of information.

Inadequate and Disjointed Reference Sources - In addition, studying sex trafficking in Namibia proved particularly challenging since the researcher could not find adequate previous empirical studies on the subject and consequently had limited previous references to inform and guide her.

Similarly, while Namibia is renowned for its uniquely high Gini-Co-Efficiency, the researcher found that this fact hardly featured in any of the existing documentation on social and economic vulnerability, especially prostitution, in the country.

Large Scope of the Study against limited Financial Resources - A further limitation was the wide coverage of the study in relation to limited human and financial resources availability. In this regard, in order to avoid the difficulties that could have emanated from utilizing the conventional services of research enumerators unfamiliar with the local environments and research target groups in the 18 cities/towns of 8 regions of Namibia, the researcher decided to take time to identify and familiarize appropriate ground-research-guides in the sites of the study themselves.

Whereas this approach ensured that the research guides identified, familiarized and used to gather the data were adequately familiar with the areas and target groups of the study, the process of identifying the most suitable individuals from among the many research target group members required that the researcher herself had adequate prior knowledge of the areas of the study.

3.9. Conclusion - Although this researcher chose a difficult and often times dangerous topic for her study, and correspondingly tedious and sometimes risky method of research, this was the best way she could ensure accuracy and reliability.

CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents and analyses the key findings of the study, with particular emphasis on its respondents' individual circumstances such as personal and family situation, educational attainment, characteristics of the prostitution occupation, their general health and reproductive health, customers of prostitution, the difficulties they encounter in their day-to-day lives such as violence, use of illicit drugs, trafficking for sexual exploitation, as well as their wishes, desires and aspirations and future plans.

The Chapter further interprets the findings of this study in relation to previous findings and accessibility of this particular social group to existing national policy, legal and legislative protections. Finally it reaches some recommendations on possible steps that could be taken at community and national levels to halt and/or counter sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

4.2. Prevalence of Sex Trafficking in Namibia¹³⁰

Who had Experienced Sex Trafficking - This study found trafficking for sex purposes high. A total of 106, representing 46.0% of the total sample stated that they had either personally (68 - 29.6%) experienced sex trafficking or knew friends and/or colleagues, family members or

¹³⁰The analysis of this section is mainly based on the information derived from the 68 direct and 38 indirect victims of sex trafficking of this study.

neighbours (38 - 34.3%) who had experienced sex trafficking.¹³¹ 22 (9.6%) had just heard about it, while 102 (44.3%) did not know anything about it.

Table 12: Respondent Prostitutes who stated they had themselves been trafficked or knew Friends, Colleagues or Relatives who had been trafficked for sex purposes

Nr	Sex Trafficking Knowledge	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	68	29.6
2	Friends and/or relatives	38	16.5
2	Only heard that it happens	22	9.6
2	No	102	44.3
Total	128	230	100.0

This is an important finding in the light of the fact that the USA State Department’s Office to Monitor Trafficking in Persons annual reports (TIP, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008) have steadily maintained that Namibia is one of the African countries affected by trafficking in persons.

It is important to note that this finding which was primarily based on the study’s quantitative data was also reiterated by its qualitative data. 44 out of the 60 **Key Informants** confirmed that sex trafficking was happening in Namibia, against 15 who stated that there was a possibility that sex trafficking could be happening. Only 1 key informant had no idea about it.

These findings were further supported by life circumstances of the **20 Case Studies**, 9 of whom stated they had themselves been victims of sex-related trafficking and 1 for domestic labour. They included high-sea vessel stowaways.¹³² About 7 members of the case studies knew friends who had been trafficked for sex, while 1 informed the researcher and her guides that her teenage sister had been trafficked into pornography in London. The remainder, 1 sex pimp and 1 brothel operator had no knowledge of sex trafficking.

¹³¹Most respondents described trafficking as ‘when their sex customers, truck drivers or older prostitutes take them to places they don’t know for purposes other than previously agreed upon’.

¹³²This stowaway victim considered himself as a sex trafficking victim since he was now an illegal immigrant involved in street-prostitution-related and drug activities

Similarly, the majority of the participants in the focus discussion groups acknowledged that both internal and external sex trafficking is taking place in Namibia, mainly by truck drivers, seamen, employment recruitment agents, sex customers and other prostitutes. One group emphasized the increasing trend of slave labour among the country's grape farms.

What was quite striking was the fact that 55 (51.9%) respondents stated they believed the phenomenon of sex trafficking had been going on for some years. Another 37 (43.9%) stated they always witness it.

Table 13: Length of Time Respondent Prostitutes had been trafficked

Nr	Time Trafficked	Frequency	Percent
1	Years back	55	51.9
2	Always (trucks take girl)	37	34.9
3	Last year	13	12.3
4	Last month	1	0.9
Total		106	100.0

In-Country Trafficking and Namibia as a Country of Origin, Transit and

Destination - This study confirmed that sex trafficking in Namibia depicted all CTIP's¹³³ four main classifications of trafficking in persons, namely, internal trafficking, country of origin, transit country and destination country. 48 (45.3%) of the respondents had been internally trafficked to and from the Namibian cities and towns, against 40 (37.7%) who had been trafficked to and from the SADC Region's countries, 16 (15.1%) to Europe and USA, and 2 (1.9%) who had arrived from Eastern and Western Africa.

Table 14: Where Respondent Prostitutes had been trafficked

Nr	Destinations	Frequency	Percent
1	In country (internal trafficking)	48	45.3

¹³³This refers to the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons commonly known as TIP.

2	Within SADC (origin/transit/destination)	40	37.7
3	To Europe and USA (destination)	16	15.1
4	From East/West African countries to Namibia (origin/transit/destination)	2	1.9
Total		106	100.0

This finding corresponds with US Government's Department of State 9th report (CTIP, 2009) ¹³⁴ which classified Namibia as a source (origin), transit and destination country for children trafficked mainly for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Destinations of Sex Trafficking from Namibia - Of the 106 individuals who stated they had either been affected themselves (86) or knew people who had been affected (38), 33 (14.3%) went to 4 African countries of South Africa (18 - 7.8%), Angola (11 - 4.8%), Botswana (3 - 1.3%) and Congo DRC - 1 (0.4%). A total of 16 (6.9%) were taken to the Western Countries of Iceland (4), France (2), Germany (2), Spain (2), UK (2), Holland (2) and USA (2), while 9 arrived from Zambia (6), Zimbabwe (1), Rwanda (1) and Cameroon (1).

Table 15: Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination for Sex Trafficking

Nr	Country/Town of Destination	Frequency	Percent
1	In country	48	45.3
2	South Africa	18	17.0
3	Angola	11	10.4
4	Congo DRC	1	0.9
5	Zambia	6	5.7
6	Zimbabwe	1	0.9
7	Rwanda, through Uganda/Congo DRC/Zambia/Angola	1	0.9
8	Cameroon through Congo CRC	Frequency	0.9
9	Botswana	48	2.8
10	Iceland	18	3.8
11	France	11	1.9
12	Germany	1	1.9
13	Spain	6	1.9

¹³⁴The Ninth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report on <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009> downloaded on 23 June 2009.

14	UK	1	1.9
15	USA	1	1.9
16	Holland	Frequency	1.9
Total		48	100.0

Namibia is a Transit and Destination Country - The Cameroonian woman in Case Study No. 12, who had been brought into Namibia from Cameroon through the Central Republic of Congo (CRC), Congo DRC to Angola and back to Namibia; and the Rwandese woman in Case Study No. 14, who was brought into Namibia through Uganda, Congo DRC, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola, make Namibia both a transit and destination country of trafficking in persons. The Tswana, South African, Zimbabwean (1) and Zambian (6) nationals who arrived in Namibia make it a destination country of trafficking in persons.

The Sub-Regional and Regional Perspective - The 40 foreign prostitutes from Angola (11), Botswana (3), South Africa (18), Zambia (6), Zimbabwe and Congo (DRC) represent half of the 14 SADC regional block countries, while the presence of a Rwandese who transited through Uganda, and a Cameroonian who transited through the Central African Republic of Congo (CRC) extend the prostitution wings in Namibia to the East African Community (EAC) and the Central African Region and the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS).

The International Scope of Sex Trafficking in Namibia - Significantly, the 16 (6.9%) young and adult prostitutes who had been trafficked to 6 European countries of France (2), Germany (2), Holland (2), Iceland (4), Spain (2) and the United Kingdom of Britain (UK -2)

and the United States of America (USA-2), served to confirm that Namibia has become a member of the global trafficking-in-persons' network.¹³⁵

Markedly, although Thailand was frequently mentioned, the research did not record any specific individuals who had been trafficked there.

4.3. Extent and Impact

Nationalities - This research dealt with 8 nationalities. The majority were Namibians who represented 199 (86.5%) of the total sample, followed by 31 foreign nationals of 9 South Africans (3.9%), 7 Tswanas (3.0%), 6 Zambians (2.6%), 5 Zimbabweans (2.2%), 2 Angolans (0.9%), 1 each Cameroonian and Rwandese who represented 0.9%.

Of the 199 Namibians, more than half, 104 (52.3%), stated they had knowledge about the existence of sex trafficking. This proportion was similar to the other 7 nationalities where more than half or all the respondents had knowledge of sex trafficking; 6 of the 9 South Africans, 4 of the 7 Tswana, 6 of the 6 Zambians, 3 of the 5 Zimbabweans, the 2 Angolans, and 1 each of the Cameroonian and Rwandese. The table below shows trafficked prostitutes by their nationalities.

Table 16: Respondent Prostitutes' Nationalities

Nr	Nationality	Frequency	ST Knowledge
1	Namibian	199	104
2	South African	9	6
3	Tswana	7	4
4	Zambian	6	6
5	Zimbabwean	5	3
6	Angolan	2	2

¹³⁵143 (74.4%) of the 192 World's nations are involved in trafficking of women and young people for commercial sexual exploitation, labour and Crime. The majority of these children and young people involved are little girls and young women.

7	Cameroonian	1	1
8	Rwandese	1	1
Total	8	230	127

It is noteworthy that while Congo DRC nationals were frequently mentioned, and one person claimed to have been trafficked through Congo DRC, the researcher did not physically meet any Congo DRC nationals in the research.

Trafficking Routes - The main routes of travel used by the 68 prostitutes who stated they had themselves been trafficked were highways (Northern, Southern and North Eastern Highway, commonly known as B1) which accounted for 46 (67.6%), airports with 8 (11.8%), and coastal ports with 2 (3.0%). Table 17 shows the sex trafficking routes and exit points of this study.

Table 17: Sex Trafficking Routes and Exit Points

Nr	Routes	Frequency	Percent
1	B1 (North/South/North East)	46	67.6
2	Airport	8	11.8
3	Coast	2	3.0
4	Other	12	17.6
Total		68	100.0

Mode of Travel - The 106 prostitutes who had been trafficked or knew trafficked people named the main means of travel as trucks leading at 84 (79.2), followed by cars and buses at 12 (11.3%), planes with 8 (7.5%), and ships/boats/canoes at 2 (2.0%) as table 18 below shows.

Table 18: Means (Mode) of Travel

Nr	Means/Modes	Frequency	Percent
1	Trucks	84	79.2
2	Cars/Buses	12	11.3
3	Planes	8	7.5
4	Canoes/Boats/Ships	2	2.0
Total		106	100.0

Travel Documents - The well documented migratory criminality feature of sex trafficking was corroborated by the finding that only 15 (22.1%) of the women and young adolescent girls who stated they had been trafficked for sex purposes had formal travel documents compared to 53 (77.9%) who had none.

Furthermore, even those who had formal travel documents, such documents, had, in the main, been processed illegally, through dubious means such as bribing passport issuing officials (7 - 3%). 8 (3.5%) had their travel documents arranged for them by their recruiters (employment agencies) and traffickers.

The Sex Traffickers - Among the 106 direct or indirect victims of sex trafficking, 47 (44.3%) had been trafficked by truck drivers, 32 (30.2%) by sex customers, 12 (11.3%) fellow prostitutes, 7 (6.6%) job recruitment agencies, 3 (2.8%) relatives, 2 (1.9%) stone/drug dealers, 2 (1.9%) pimps, and 1 (0.9%) a businessman shown in table 19 below.

Table 19: Who trafficked Prostitutes into the Sex Industry?

Nr	Traffickers	Frequency	Percent
1	Truck Drivers	47	44.3
2	Sex customers	32	30.2
3	Fellow prostitutes	12	11.3
4	Job Recruitment Agency	7	6.6
5	Relatives	3	2.8
6	Stone/Drug dealers	2	1.9
7	Pimps	2	1.9
8	Local Business man	1	0.9
Total	Total	106	100.0

A Zimbabwean prostitute in the streets of Windhoek (**Case Study No. 9**) narrated her encounter with a potential sex trafficker:

‘In December 2007 I was approached by a Tanzanian drug-dealer who wanted to take me to Thailand where he said I would make much more money than I was making in

Windhoek. But because I had heard about things drug-dealers do to the girls they take to South Africa and Thailand, I asked the man if I would be allowed to keep my passport myself. When he responded that he would himself keep my passport, I was sceptical. I didn't want to suffer the same fate my Zambian friend had suffered. Drug-dealers took her to Cape Town, hooked her to heroine in an all-white brothel, and when she got too sick to earn them money, they threw her on the street. By the time she returned back to Namibia, she was in a shockingly sick and in a physically wasted state. I still see the guy who attempted to recruit me in the streets approaching other 'bitches'.

4.4. Causes of Sex Trafficking

Vulnerability of Prostitutes to Sex Trafficking - Sex Trafficking in Namibia was found closely associated to a fast-growing prostitution phenomenon. With an exception of only 2 respondents, 228 representing 99.1% of this study's respondents were involved in prostitution. 185 (80.4%) were full time sex vendors, 17 (7.4%) part time sex vendors, 15 (6.5%) sex customers and 11 (4.8%) pimps.

159 representing 69.1% stated that they had entered prostitution in recent years between 2000 and 2007, against 60 (26%) who had entered prostitution over a period of 20 years between 1980 to 1999. 38 representing 16.5% had entered in one year of 2005 alone.

It is important to note that this finding was reiterated by information generated from this study's qualitative data sources. 9 out of the 13 prostitutes among the 20 Case Study subjects (16 females and 4 males), claimed to have been direct victims of external sex trafficking. They had fallen victims of sex trafficking through their prostitution activities, and not before they entered into prostitution. They included a full-blown AIDS prostitute who claimed that in August 2008,

she had been trafficked to Cape Town and in December 2008 to Johannesburg to work in prostitution brothels in readiness for 2010 World Cup.¹³⁶

While previous studies on prostitution in Namibia (LAC 2002:2, Kiremire 2007:4, Sechogele 2008:7) had implied that there was a connection between trafficking in persons and prostitution, and, for lack of evidence for the long suspected existence of human trafficking the 2008 TIP Report (274) classified Namibia as a ‘Special Case’,¹³⁷ this study has confirmed that trafficking for sex purposes, both within and beyond the Namibian borders, occurs and targets and involves prostitutes.

This finding confirmed both hypotheses three and four of this study which propose that ‘women, young adolescents and children involved in prostitution become easy victims of sex trafficking’ and therefore ‘targeting prostitutes as the key subjects of the research provides a lead to human trafficking in general and to sex trafficking in particular’.

Sex Trafficking was Gendered - This study found that the prostitutes who were prone to sex trafficking were predominantly females. 64 (27%) out of the 191 (83.0%) females of this study sample stated that they had themselves experienced sex trafficking compared to 3 males (1.3%) out of the 38 (16.5%) male respondents, and 1 (0.4%) trans-sexual-male who had experienced sex trafficking.

¹³⁶From a direct interview the researcher had with the respondent in her home in Katutura in Windhoek on 24 April 2009.

¹³⁷TIP Annual Report classified countries according to a three-tiered scale, where Tier 1 is best and Tier 3 is worst. Due to lack of concrete evidence for the suspected existence of human trafficking in Namibia, TIP 2008 Report classified Namibia as a ‘Special Case’.

This finding reiterates former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (CTIP 2003:7) and IOM (2003:135)'s contention that 'trafficking in persons is targeting females more than males, and females in economic vulnerability more than the advantaged ones'. It reinforces LaRRI (2009:35)'s assertions that, 'class stratification in Namibia had a substantial gender element'.

The Link between Sex, Labour and Child Trafficking - The connection between sex and labour trafficking was demonstrated by information obtained from key stakeholder informants in Katima Mulilo and Sesheke, Orangemund Wine Farms and Civil Society organisations representatives in Windhoek. The young Zambian girl (**Case Study No. 20**) aged about 16-17-years this researcher interviewed¹³⁸ in Windhoek is a case in point of the existence of child trafficking for labour slavery.

The girl who was being assisted through a 9-year trauma she had suffered in slave domestic labour in a Windhoek location home since approximately the age of 7 or 8-years had told social workers that she had been brought into Namibia from Zambia by unknown people who had sold her to 'a madam in a green uniform' for domestic work. Over the 9 years she had worked for her uniformed bosses (both male and female), she had been subjected to immense suffering in the form of beatings, insults, denial of food and long hours of work without pay.

The older she got, the more she determined to, one day, run away from her slavery. Five months ago, she had approached the neighbouring house for assistance. The neighbours who had long believed the girl was their neighbours' family member had subsequently called in Police. She has never had any documents of identity and does not know her family. Law enforcement agents are

¹³⁸From a direct interview this researcher had with a child victim of domestic labour slavery in Windhoek on Friday, 29 January 2010.

currently trying to identify her village and relatives in Western Zambia so that they can reunite her with her family. Given her circumstances, it can be concluded that had this girl run into the streets rather than approach the neighbours for assistance, she could have easily been exposed to possible sexual exploitation in the form of prostitution, or even trafficking.

In Orangemund farms (**Key Informant No. 34**), Police patrols had revealed that 9-14-year-old Okavango/Caprivi little girls were working as baby-minders for female grape farm labourers.¹³⁹ Their transporters who bring them to Noordoewer by taxis, trucks and kombis¹⁴⁰ regularly collect the wages the girls work for and take it back to their original recruiters (suppliers) who are normally parents and/or guardians. When the girls find their living and working conditions unbearable, they usually run off with sugar daddies or join their 'truck jumper' colleagues in highway prostitution with truck drivers. They never return to the farms, nor do they return to wherever they were recruited from. New ones are always arriving to sustain the vicious cycle of child labour, destitution and sexual exploitation

It is important to note that whereas the original purpose of recruiting the little girls from their home regions and transporting and delivering them to the farm areas was not necessarily prostitution, the end result became such that they (girls) are inevitably pushed into farm or highway-truck prostitution.

4.5. Consequences

The relationship between Sex Traffickers and their Victims - Contrary to previously widely held perceptions that trafficking perpetrators are mainly groups of organized

¹³⁹Taken from a direct interview with a senior Orangemund farms law enforcer on 12 April 2009

¹⁴⁰Refers to long distance mini buses

international ‘criminal syndicates’, this study found that the majority of the sex trafficking perpetrators were people closely associated with their victims. They involved mutual transporters (truck/taxi/bus drivers, sex customers, fellow prostitutes, pimps and relatives) with whom prostitutes share common social and economic backgrounds and life circumstances and upon whom many get to depend. The shared commonality between prostitutes and their traffickers is reiterated by a 23-year-old South African Truck driver met in Keetmanshoop:

‘I have been driving trucks for 4 years now. I started when I was only 19 years old. Unfortunately for me, I had to leave school prematurely. I had made my classmate at school pregnant. My parents insisted I take responsibility for my actions. Both of us dropped out of school and got married. I now had a wife and a kid to look after and had neither any skills nor any certificate that could attest to my qualifications. So, eventually, truck driving was all I could do. It is a very dangerous job. I spend 2 days and 2 nights driving none stop. Criminals see me passing. They mark this truck No.5. My life is always in danger. That is why truck drivers resort to prostitutes. But they also get diseases, even HIV/AIDS. They take them to their wives and both die, leaving a chain of kids behind. Truck Drivers are as useless as the prostitutes they take on the trucks. They are the same.’

This young truck driver’s sentiments were echoed by his 40-year-old colleague:

‘Both my parents died when I was 8-years-old. I dropped out of Standard 6 and started fending for myself in the trucks. After 18 long years, I finally got a driving license and started driving trucks. I had no education with which to get a more decent job. It has been 11 years since. It is a dangerous and hopeless job. Only 10 out of 100 truck drivers own their own houses. 95% get divorced. That is why they turn to highway prostitutes.’

The symbiosism, affinity, mutuality and amicability that prostitute trafficking victims in Namibia share with their perpetrators is appropriately illustrated by the sentiments expressed by a 41-year-old, Grade 12-graduate, mother of 5 children, who provides sexual services to hundreds of truck drivers that pass through the town of Karasburg in the Southern part of the country:

‘They blame truck drivers for bringing AIDS to Namibia, but I ask you, what would I do without these men? How would I feed my children and send them to school. I have no job and no husband. I come here every night, seven days a week; I meet these men. They are lonely and tired. They have been driving long distances. They rest in my arms in their trucks; I give them comfort. Then they give me money and they proceed on their journey to deliver the equipment to our mines. I go and buy food for my kids. We are fine, me and my truck drivers. I don’t see the AIDS they bring; I don’t know what those people are talking about anyway.’

Like their traffickers, the majority of this research’s respondents who believed they had fallen victims of trafficking, were mainly socially and economically disadvantaged people who had either been orphaned or dropped out of school and subsequently been socially isolated, alienated and rejected. Thus, the two groups enjoy a social co-existence and symbiosism. Their circumstances and situations closely collate to Giddens’ (2005:136) conclusions that, ‘prostitutes cater for men who are away from home and/or who desire sexual encounters without commitment’.

Did trafficked Prostitutes find their Prostitution Activities Profitable? Of the 68 respondent prostitutes who stated they had been trafficked, 44 (64.7) did not find being trafficked

for sex profitable. Only 13 (19.1%) had benefitted and 11 (16.2%) partly benefitted from it respectively.

18 (26.5%) of the respondents used the incomes they generated as a result of the activities they got involved in as victims of sex trafficking for group survival;¹⁴¹ followed by 17 (25.0%) who used it for self-survival; and another 17 (25.0%) whose incomes were robbed. Table 20 below illustrates prostitutes' use of their prostitution incomes.

Table 20: How Prostitutes used the incomes they generated from activities they got involved in as a result of being trafficked

Nr	Uses of generated incomes	Frequency	Percent
1	Self Survival	17	25.0
2	Group survival	18	26.5
3	Robbed	17	25.0
4	for husbands	2	2.9
5	Not specified	14	20.6
Total		68	100.0

The level of exploitation and extent to which trafficking into the sex industry can stretch was demonstrated by cases of 2 (2.9%) husbands who sold their wives into prostitution for their own livelihoods.

Dangers and Risks of Sex Trafficking - Sex trafficking in Namibia, like all human trafficking activities world-wide (Ezeilo 2008:3) was characterized by dangers and risks. While 2 (2.9%) stated they faced no risks during their trafficking experiences at all, a total of 62 (94.1%) had faced various physical and bodily harm. These included 44 (64.7%) for prostitution, 11 (16.2%) rape/beating/deportation/sickness/arrest, 5 (7.4%) abandonment/homelessness, and 1 (1.5%) each who suffered theft and physical labour. Table 21 illustrates these risks.

¹⁴¹This refers to prostitutes who operate in groups, in prostitution commonly known as 'sisterhood'.

Table 21: Risks faced when trafficked

Nr	Risks	Frequency	Percent
1	Prostituted	44	64.7
2	Raped/beaten/deported	11	16.2
3	Abandoned/Homelessness	5	7.4
4	Robbed	1	1.6
5	Physical Labour	1	1.6
7	No Risks faced	2	2.9
8	Not specified	4	5.9
Total	Total	68	100.0

These findings resonate Dottridge (2004:9)'s statement that trafficking in people is directly associated with its victims' subsequent exploitation by those who violate their human rights through forcing them to make money for them, and to satisfy the demands of those who control them. Farley (2008:65) equates the results of repeated harm and humiliation against a trafficked person who is kept isolated to living in prisoner-of-war conditions. The following experiences (Case Study No. 15) illustrate the role of deception in sex trafficking and the resultant risks even in the most subtle of cases:

'A trucker took one of my friends to Luanda in Angola with a promise to marry her. My friend trusted him. She was glad to finally find a man to marry and care for her. When they reached Luanda, he put her in a lodge. She soon found out that the man already had a wife. The wife heard about it and came to the lodge. She beat her up. The girl run into the streets, where she sold her body and got money to return to Oshikango.'

'I always get arrested and harassed because I am illegally in the country most of the time. I am always being deported. I have been deported from Botswana and Namibia several times. But every time I am deported, I return. Mama Monde (**Case Study No. 13**) has many connections. She always finds ways of getting us out of trouble until next time!'

The length of trafficking experiences varied between years, months and weeks. 27 (39.7%) had been trafficked for some years, 23 (33.8%) for months and 12 (17.6%) for weeks. 6 (8.8%) could not specify. Table 22 indicates the length of time trafficked prostitutes were gone.

Table 22: Length of time Respondent Prostitutes were trafficked

Nr	Time Trafficked	Frequency	Percent
1	Years	27	39.7
2	Months	23	33.8
3	Weeks	12	17.6
4	Not specified	6	8.8
Total		68	100.0

The captivity and hazardous circumstances of sex trafficking was indicated by 39 (57.3%) who had not yet returned to where they had come from. 11 (16.2%) had been deported, while 10 (14.7%) had managed to escape with the assistance of their mutual transporters, mainly truckers, sex customers and other traffickers. Table 23 shows these methods of return.

Table 23: Methods/Mean of Return

Nr	Means	Frequency	Percent
1	Still there	39	57.3
2	Deported	11	16.2
3	Escaped and returned by truckers/sex customers/traffickers	10	14.7
4	Not specified	8	11.8
Total		68	100.0

The Link between Sex Trafficking and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic - The link between sex trafficking and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic took various forms. First and foremost, these young girls and women are trafficked to live and work in slave-like conditions, notably, because their employers' working conditions are themselves poor, many of them (employers) get exposed to hazardous diseases. According to **Key Informant 34**, law enforcement patrols had revealed that often times when the working mothers in the grape farms (child employers) get sick

or even die, the little girls they had employed as baby-minders double as concubines for their former employers' husbands or sex partners. They inevitably get infected and subsequently accelerate into the vicious cycle of destitution and ill health including HIV/AIDS.

The case of the two Namibian teenage girls (**Case Study No.1**) who, in 2000 sought a truck ride from their home town of Swakopmund to attend a youth fashion show in their Capital City Windhoek, demonstrates this potential hazard involved. Not only did they eventually cross their national border into an unfamiliar territory, but they faced danger at the hands of their mutual transporters. A combination of financial constraints and a desire to attend the youth function in the city had led them to willingly request for a lift from a seemingly innocent set of truck drivers. The two men had willingly and amicably agreed to meet the girls' need of transport. Upon reaching the girls' destination, the men had enticed the girls with promises of exciting shopping sojourners in Johannesburg and by so doing, secured their (girls') willingness to accompany them to the 'City of Gold'. Once beyond the borders of their country, the men had turned around, harassed, beaten, raped, dumped and abandoned the young girls in unfamiliar environment. By the time the police rescued, hospitalized and deported them, the girls had already contracted a host of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). They included HIV/AIDS.

Today, both girls are full-blown AIDS patients. One is a full-fledged prostitute, while the other is still struggling to cope with a life transforming experience. They represent 62.1% of this research's respondents who stated they had suffered one or more STDs and HIV/AIDS in the course of their sex trafficking and sexually exploitation experiences.

When Parasitism and Symbiosis Clash - The results of this section indicate that sex trafficking is neither physically nor mentally safe. Against the cordiality and comradeship that seemingly characterize the relationship between the prostitutes of this study and their mutual transporters, sex customers, colleagues, friends and pimps, exists, another type of mutuality.

The eight teenage girls (**Case Study No. 15**) who spent a night with a bunch of truck drivers in a lodge in Noordoewer, and the following morning joyfully ‘jumped’ on the truck of one of the drivers and headed North, had no idea that hundreds of miles away from their familiar environments, they would be offered to another bunch of truck drivers to use and abandon as they wished. The girls soon discovered that the men’s consideration did not encompass their (girls’) physical circumstances, be it sickness, unexpected and unwanted pregnancies. They eventually sought refuge in two male pimps who enslaved them in an incomplete house in Oshikango border town.

Indeed this research confirms IOM’s notion (EYE 2008:3) that, ‘by transporting trafficking victims from the safety and comfort of their homes and communities including other sources of protection and support, traffickers render their victims isolated, disoriented, defenceless, dependent, and ultimately, susceptible to exploitation’. It reaffirms Rice’s (TIP 2003:7) contention that, ‘human trafficking is a form of slavery whose perpetrators prey on the most vulnerable and innocent lives’. It restates Anti Slavery International (2007:1)’s belief that ‘trafficking thrives on illicit movements that are characterized by deception, coercion and violence for the purpose of exploitation’. Indeed, such is the epitome of the phenomenon of sex trafficking in Namibia, together with all its manifestations.

The results of this research confirmed the researcher's earlier finding (Kiremire 2002:64) that, 'sex trafficking is gendered and that even in vulnerability and symbiosm, it still bears the gender inequality face'. During a focus group discussion meeting in Windhoek, a malnourished looking 18-year-old Zambian girl (**Case Study No.13**) who operates in a group of 20 foreign prostitutes under a female pimp lamented:

'Our group leader brought me to Namibia via Katima Mulilo. She deceived me that I was going to live a great life. Now I earn N\$2,000 per day and bring it to her. In 2005 the immigration officers deported me. But our 'Mama' knows how to bring us back.'

And a 22-year-old Zambian Windhoek-based prostitute lamented:

'A customer picked me from a night club along Independence Avenue. He drove me 60km along BI High Way towards Okahandja. We turned to a farm. There, he cut off my clothes and knee-boots. He pointed a gun at me and pushed a hummer into my private parts. He raped me without a condom. While raping me he kept telling me he knew it wasn't me who gave him HIV but that he was sorry for me because he was going to kill me anyway. Then, in a rage, he threw me out of his house. I was naked. I run towards the road in darkness. Near the Police check point, I got a lift from a truck which dropped me in Windhoek. My life is a nightmare (*she is hauling away crying like a funeral mourner*). I am suffering. I don't know why God doesn't see me. That abortion almost killed me. I am HIV-positive and I always get arrested and harassed because I am illegally in the country most of the time. I am always being deported. I have been deported from Botswana and Namibia several times. But every time I am deported, I return. Mama 'M--' has many connections!'

UNFPA attributes escalating numbers of gender-based-violence (GBV) and the spread of HIV/AIDS to gender inequality. They further cite a weakening traditional values system, breakdown of family structures, limited employment opportunities, wide spread alcohol abuse, and a patriarchal structure that continues to allocate power to men and reinforce unequal power relations between boys and girls (Gender Watch 2008:4) to explain women's vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

This study clearly indicates that sex trafficking is neither physically and mentally safe, nor profitable to those who fall as its victims. While only 13 (19.1%) stated they found it profitable, 44 (65%) did not.

The findings in this section served to confirm hypotheses two and five of this study which proposes that, 'sex trafficking is closely associated with prostitution, sexual exploitation and physical and health dangers and risks'; and 'in the eyes of society, people, particularly females, who become victims of sex trafficking for sexual exploitation, are deviants who fail to manage their lives within the complex societal complex of combined traditional African elements and modern capitalist circumstance'.

4.6. Respondents' Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics¹⁴²

Prostitution and Gender - Although on the onset, this study targeted prostitutes irrespective of their gender, it none the less was surprised by the level of gender inequality in prostitution as a social activity. Only 41 out of a 230 respondent sample in prostitution hot spots in 14 cities and towns of 7 out of 13 regions of the Namibian nations were males, 11 of whom

¹⁴²The data analysis of this section of the study is based on respondents of the the entire sample of the quantitative data (230).

were pimps for prostitutes. Even more revealing was the fact that of the 185 who were in full time prostitution, only 1 was a full time male prostitute (mophie).

Age - Another revealing aspect of prostitution in Namibia was its age spectrum which ranged from 10 and 49 years, with the majority, 170 representing 74% being youths aged between 19 to 35 years. 37 (16%) were aged between 10 and 18 years, while 23 (10%) were adults aged between 36 and 49 years. It resonates the 28% of the country's youth population. This finding poses a challenge when considered against the country's average life expectancy at birth of 51.24years.¹⁴³

The youthfulness of prostitution in Namibia was reflected by the fact that the large majority, 207, representing 90% of the research sample were children and youths aged 10 to 35 years. 37 or 16% were children between 10 and 18 years old. This finding corresponds with the findings of the only three existing empirical researches on prostitution (LAC: 2002, Sechogele: 2008, and Kiremire: 2007). Notably, these studies were all limited to between 1 and 5 towns of the country.

Although LAC (2002:13) did not explicitly give a figure of child prostitutes, it stated that 30% of its respondent sample 'regularly saw children on the street and even at some clubs'. It also noted that, 'a new generation of sex workers was already being established on the streets'. This prediction proved correct when 5 years later Kiremire (2007:14) found that 21% of the prostitutes in Windhoek, Oshikango and Oshakati were teenagers between 15 and 19-years-of-age. One year later, Sechogele's Baseline Survey on Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of

¹⁴³http://www.indexmundi.com/namibia/life_expectancy_at_birth.html downloaded on 18 March 2010 at 2200 hours

Women and Children at the Oshikango Border Post (2008:7) found that 25 (17.7%) of her respondents were children below 18-years-of-age as Figure 3 illustrates

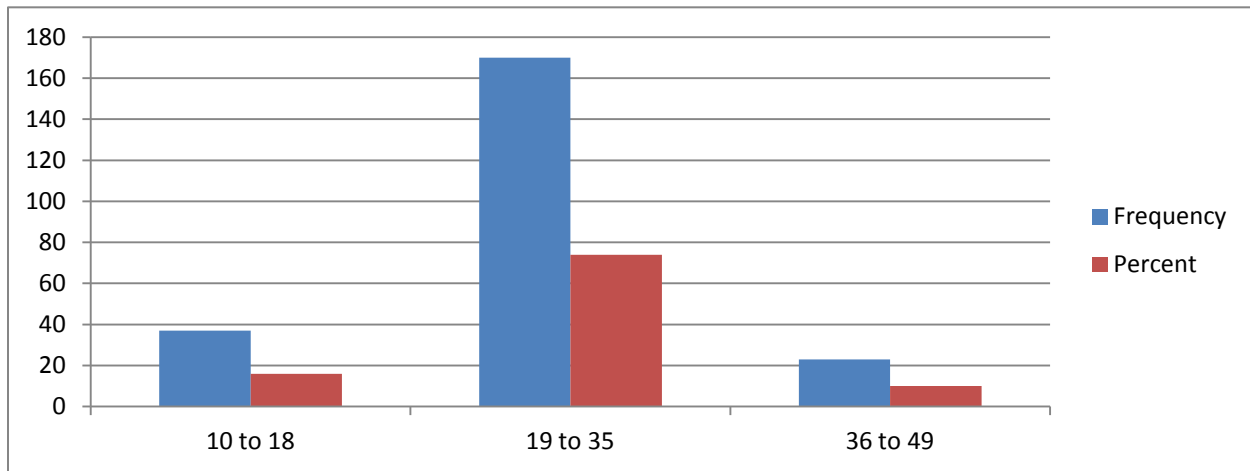


Figure 3: Trafficked Respondent Prostitutes or those with knowledge of Sex Trafficking are Predominantly Youths.

This finding collaborates with Sechogele (2008:19) finding that 38% of Oshikango Border town prostitutes were young girls below 20 years of age who entered prostitution within the last 5 years. It reiterates LAC (2002:12) which found that the majority of their 148 sample in 4 Cities/towns of Windhoek, Grootfontein, Keetmashoop, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay had been in prostitution between 2 and 10 years only.

A year before Sechogele's Baseline Survey, a Windhoek-based 49-year-old prostitute had told Kiremire (2007:13) that unlike when she and her colleagues started prostitution in the mid sixties, present-day prostitution was characterized by a large number of prostitutes. Hon. Joel Kapanda, Minister of Works, Transport and Communication refers to them as young sex workers who come from villages to towns in search of employment at great risk of contracting HIV (Sibeene 2006:4).

Indeed, this finding concurs with Scot and Marshall (1994:529) who argues that the number of sex workers increases when there are fewer other job opportunities for women.

Kiremire (2007:25) notes that both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNICEF 1990:45) and the Namibian Constitution define a child as any person below the age of 18-years. This definition implies that such a person is yet to fully physically, mentally and psychologically develop into a full-fledged adult and consequently, is a minor whose well-fare should be guided by his parents and guardians. It is in this light that the 37 (16%) child prostitutes found in 14 cities/towns of 8 regions of the country and exposed to sex trafficking must be seen.

Against this background, it became imperative to examine and interrogate the background of the prostitutes in Namibia with a view to establishing those factors that trigger the on-set of their social and economic vulnerability to prostitution and sexual exploitation. What, for instance, are the type of support structures and life's opportunities available to them as members of the human society?

Ethnicity - The respondents of this study did not only extend beyond the Namibian borders to its neighbouring countries but they cut across the breadth and width of the country's ethnicity. The 210 (87.3%) Namibian nationals interviewed identified themselves as Nama/Damara (73 - 31.7%), Baster/Coloured (61 - 26.5%), Ovambo (46 - 20%), Okavango (7 - 3.0%), Lozi (6 - 2.6%), Herero (5 - 2.2%), San (2 - 0.8.6%) and White (1 - 0.4%), mostly young people from a total of 8 ethnic groups. In this respect, it can be concluded that sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are non-sectarian and non-discriminatory as illustrated in the table below.

Table 24: Respondent Prostitutes' Ethnicity

Nr	Ethnic Groups	Frequency	Percent
1	Damara>Nama	73	31.7
2	Baster/Coloured	61	26.5
3	Ovambo	46	20.0
4	Foreigners	29	12.6
5	Okavango	7	3.0
6	Lozi	6	2.6
7	Herero	5	2.2
8	San	2	0.9
9	White	1	0.4
Total	9	230	100.0

Respondent Prostitutes Family Circumstances

(a) The Constitutional Role of the Family - Article 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which explicitly ties the family to marriage, mandates the family as the natural and fundamental group of society (Winterfeldt, Fox and Mufune 2002:147). In essence this constitutional mandate assumes that the family has the capacity to uphold the values of society in terms of care, support and opportunity creation for its members.

(b) The Status of Parents - Contrary to this assumption, though, apart from the fact that this study was able to establish that a large number of prostitutes in Namibia enter this fast growing and diverse trade at a very tender age, it simultaneously showed that the majority of these young people come from highly stressed family backgrounds. This conclusion was demonstrated by the fact that of the 230 respondent-sample, 215 or 93.5% had either lost a father or a mother, or both or did not know or could not locate their parents. Only 127 and 103 had living mothers and fathers respectively, a situation that reiterates generally decreasing life-spans,¹⁴⁴ and increasing family social and economic vulnerability.

¹⁴⁴Top 10 of everything: Countries with the highest life expectancy.' The Namibian, Wednesday 10 February 2010:3. Windhoek.

(c) The Circumstances of Living Parents and Siblings - In this connection, it is significant to note that 40% of the living parents were widowed (29 - 12.5%), remarried (58 - 25.2%), 30 (13%), divorced or separated. This situation resulted in the respondents' large number of step-siblings. Out of a total of 782 siblings of 351 were step siblings, comprising 242 step sisters and 109 step brothers.

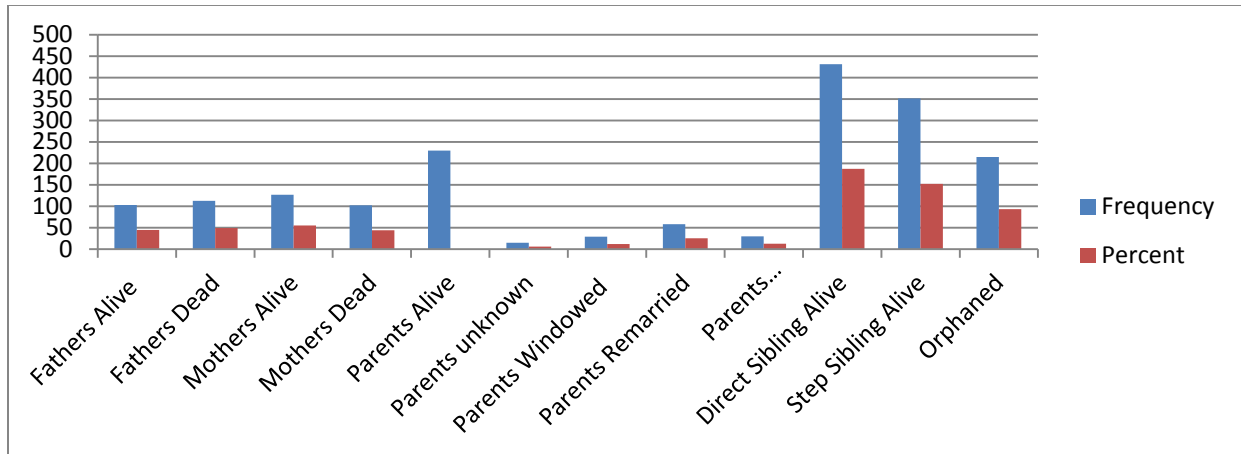


Figure 4: Respondent Prostitutes' Family Status Demonstrates Inadequacy to Care and Support Children

(d) Paternal Support - The level of dwindling family responsibility was demonstrated by lack of paternal support prostituted and trafficked women received from the men who had fathered their children. The prostitutes' 327 children, 86 (37.4%) of whom were below 10 years of age, and 77 (33.5%) were attending school had been fathered by 267 men. However, only 16 (7%) of these fathers supported their children, and 5 (2.2%) paid their kids' school fees as the table below indicates.

Table 25: Respondent Prostitutes' Child Paternity Support

Nr	Fathers' Child Support	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	16	7.0
2	Sometimes	3	1.3
3	No	101	43.9
4	Not applicable/Unspecified	110	47.8
Total		230	100.0

The perception of women prostitutes about contemporary male responsibility over family members was summed by a 35-year-old drunk prostitute the researcher met in a Luderitz Casino:

‘Men don’t look after women and children any more. They just want to eat, drink and have sex. They don’t want to work. They abuse women when they are drunk’.

This woman had become a prostitute after running away from two husbands. They left her with five children to raise-up single-handedly. Her first husband was a military soldier. Her sentiments were reverberated by those expressed by a 16-year-old prostitute in Noordoewer:

‘Here in the shebeens there is no future. But there is no future anywhere. I have a boyfriend. But he promises me nothing. It’s only about feelings and sex’.

It is equally significant that the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) through the Health Ministry, acknowledges the difficulties the contemporary family in Namibia is facing and plans to establish a Family Council to devise appropriate strategies to strengthen it (!Hoaes 2008:1).¹⁴⁵

The connection between family social and economic circumstances and youth destitution and was confirmed by a 2008 study on migration patterns of young people in Namibia. The study which was undertaken in 7 of the 13 regions of Namibia showed that family-related issues such as family poverty and instability accounted for the largest number (53%) of young people who migrated from rural to urban areas in search of opportunities for a better life.¹⁴⁶

(e) Orphan-hood - was found rampant among prostituted and trafficked women and young adolescent girls with as many as 225 representing 97.8% having lost 113 fathers (49.1%) and 102 (44.3%) mothers, commonly dubbed ‘single or double orphans’. Less than half, 103

¹⁴⁵!Hoaes, Irene. ‘Family Life Disintegrates.’ New Era, 19 Monday May 2008:1. Windhoek.

¹⁴⁶Wezi Tjaronda. ‘Unemployed youths drift to cities more’. New Era, Friday 5 February 2010. Windhoek.

(44.8%) still had their fathers against 127 (55.2%) who still had living mothers. The family structure of the prostitutes of this study is illustrated in Tables 26, 27, 28 and 29 below.

Table 26: Respondent Prostitutes' Mothers' Marital Status

Nr	Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
1	Married/Cohabiting	30	13.0
2	Remarried	24	10.4
3	Single	19	8.3
4	Widowed	19	8.3
5	Separated/Divorced	24	10.4
6	Unknown/Unspecified	114	49.6
Total	Total	230	100.0

Table 27: Respondent Prostitutes' Sibling Status?

Nr	Siblings	Total Siblings	Frequency	Average	Percent
1	0	0	3	0	
2	1	11	11	1.3	
3	2	57	23	1.5	
4	3	153	32	2.2	
5	4	257	26	2.7	
6	5	412	31	3.2	
7	6	514	17	3.6	
8	7	563	7	3.8	
9	8	611	6	3.9	
10	9	656	5	4.0	
11	13	682	2	4.2	
12	36	754	2	4.6	
12	28	782	1	4.7	
13	n/a		64		
Total		782	230	4.7	72.1

Table 28: Respondent Prostitutes who had Step Sisters

Nr	Step Sister	Total Step Sisters	Frequency	Average	Percent
1	1	8	8		
2	2	24	8		
3	3	48	8		
4	4	64	4		
5	11	229	15		
6	13	242	1		
7	Not specified		186	5.5	19.1
Total		242	230	5.5	19.1

Table 29: Respondent Prostitutes who had Step Brothers?

Nr	Step Brothers	Total Step Brothers	Frequency	Average	Percent
1	1	19	19		
2	2	47	14		
3	3	56	3		
4	4	68	3		
5	20	88	1		
6	21	109	1		
7	Not applicable		189	2.6	17.8
Total			230	2.6	17.8

This finding is supported by national statistics which classify twenty-eight percent (28%) of the country's children as orphans or vulnerable children (OVCs). In one region of Omaheke alone, as many as 3,500 children representing 5% of a population of 70,000 inhabitants fall under this category.¹⁴⁷

(f) The Link to Child-headed Households - LaRRI (2009:27) connects family incapacities to cope with their structural social and economic responsibilities to the emergence of child-headed households and the special vulnerability young girls in such situations get exposed to:

'Child-headed households emerge in situations where extended family structures are overstretched, relatives are unable to take in the children due to poverty, siblings do not want to be split up or where children do not want to lose access to parents' property by vacating the parental home. Illness and death of adults often lead to changing roles and responsibility in the family and children often have to take on adult responsibilities. Girls are often disadvantaged as a result of the new responsibilities like caring for the sick, younger children and the need to seek income-generating opportunities'.

¹⁴⁷Correspondent. 'Do they know it's Christmas?' Insights Magazine, December 2009 and January 2010. Windhoek.

In his argument on youth marginality and vulnerability, Mufune (Winterfeldt, Fox, Mufune, 2002:186) says that most youths who act out of mere necessity and survival characteristically hail from large families that are often times female headed. Indeed the impact of social and economic vulnerability on young adolescent girls and women who fall to the unscrupulous manipulations of their exploiters is best illustrated by the case of two Namibian teenage girls (**Case Study No. 1**), one a total orphan, and the other a daughter of a battered mother, who in September 2000 hitchhiked a truck-ride from Swakopmund to attend a modelling function in Windhoek, but who after being lured to accompany the two truck drivers to Johannesburg with a great shopping spree and passed both the Namibian and South African border posts without travel documents.

Educational Opportunities - Another pertinent social support structure that usually serves to prepare young people for their future is education, one which the majority of the young girls and women in this study did not have. As is demonstrated in Table 30 below, education among prostitutes was very low.

Table 30: Respondent Prostitutes' Education

Nr	Grade Range	Frequency	Percent
1	3-7	51	22.2
2	8-9	53	23.0
3	10	64	28.0
4	11	7	3.0
5	12	44	19.1
6	0	4	1.7
7	Tertiary	7	3.0
Total		230	100.00

(a) **School-drop-Out** - The majority of the respondent prostitutes, 104, representing 45.2%, had dropped out of school between grades 3 and 9. Only 7 (3.0%) had attained tertiary education,

with another 51 having reached grades 11 and 12. The majority, 64 (28%), had reached Grade 10. 53 (23%) had reached Grades 8 and 9, while 51 (22.2%) had reached between grades 3 and 7. 4 (0.9%) had never been school at all. Only 44 (19.1%) female prostitutes had reached Grade 12 education.

School-drop-out Rate is on the Increase - As Table 31 demonstrates, the rate at which prostitutes in Namibia dropped out of school has progressively increased over the last two decades. The majority, 190 representing 86.2% dropped out of school over the last 17 years with 91 (39.6%) having dropped out between 1991 and 2000. 99 representing 43.0% dropped out in the last 7 years, between 2001 and 2007. This compares to 23 (10%) who dropped out between 1976 and 1990. This trend corresponds with the national progression of school-drop-out rates which the Bank of Namibia now estimates at 60% per year.¹⁴⁸

Table 31: When Respondent Prostitutes left School

Nr	Year	Frequency	Percent
1	1976-1980	2	0.9
2	1981-1990	21	9.1
3	1991-2000	91	39.6
4	2001-2007	99	43.0
5	Unspecified	17	7.4
Total		230	100.00

(b) Reasons for Dropping-out of School - Rising levels of poverty was repeatedly given as the main reason for dropping out of school. As Table 32 shows, the majority, 158, representing 68.7% gave their reasons for dropping out of school as financial constraints. 78 (33.9%) attributed their dropping out of school to outright lack of money to continue, while 80 (34.8%)

¹⁴⁸Staff Reporter. 'Annual Address of Mr. T.K. Alweendo, Governor of the Bank of Namibia.' The Namibian, Friday 13 November 2009:3. Windhoek.

stated that after they failed to qualify for higher education, they had no money to finance repeating. This finding corroborates with NASOMA BCC Officer's observation:

'There is a direct link between high levels of school-drop-outs, mainly at Grade 10, when, learners over 16 years are usually not allowed to repeat and lack the necessary money to join NAMCOL. They inevitably become victims of urban destitution, and subsequently, prostitution. Just look at the number of street boys', she concludes!

Other Reasons for Dropping out of School - As is demonstrated in Table 32, there were other reasons for dropping out of school. These were teenage pregnancies which accounted for 34 (14.7%), peer pressure 15 (6.5%) and 13 (5.7%) to what some respondents of this study simply termed '**family confusion**'. Only 1, a male sex-customer, had graduated from College.

Table 32: Why Respondent Prostitutes left School

Nr	Reason	Frequency	Percent
1	Peer Pressure	15	6.5
2	Teenage Pregnancy/Early marriage	34	14.7
3	Lack of Money	78	33.9
4	Failed Examinations	80	34.8
5	Family Confusion	13	5.7
6	Apartheid System	1	0.4
7	Graduated from College	1	0.4
8	Unspecified	8	3.5
Total		230	100.00

These findings are punctuated by a general expressed concern about newspaper head-lines such as 'Poor Grade 10 Result',¹⁴⁹ 'More than half fail exams,'¹⁵⁰ and 'constant decrease in Higher Levels NSSC performance over the last three years'.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁹Kuvee Kanguuehi. 'Poor Grade 10 Results for Omaheke.' New Era, Thursday 15 January 2009:2. Windhoek

¹⁵⁰Christof Maletsky. 'More than half fail exams.' The Namibian, Friday 19 December 2008:1. Windhoek.

¹⁵¹Citizen Nahas Angula. '2008 Education outcomes balance sheet.' New Era, Friday 16 January 2009:6. Windhoek.

On Friday December 2008, The Namibian newspaper carried a front page story titled ‘More than half fail exams’. It reported that only 47.6% of the pupils from 552 schools who wrote the 2008 National Junior Secondary Certificate examinations managed to score the required 23 points or more, and a minimum of an F grade in English to proceed to Grade 11, leaving 52.4% of those who did not make the grade in the cold.

(c) The Link between School-drop-out Rates and Youth Social-Economic Vulnerability -

The above revelations emphasize the fact that social and economic vulnerability increased the chances of 90% (207) of the respondents of this study who were themselves young people aged between 10 and 35 years, with educational levels too low to make them socially and economically viable, to prostitution and sex trafficking. They echo expressed concerns of a Noordoewer 16-year-old shebeen prostitute:

‘The problem is that you don’t see your dream come true because you fear that your parents might not have enough money to support you to finish school. So I sleep with boys to give me money. When I sleep in the lodges with the truck drivers, I steal food and clothes from there’.

It is against this background that the following section divulges deeper into the social and economic backgrounds of the prostitute women, young adolescents and children of this study.

Marital Status - The majority, 213 (92.6%) were single and never been married, while 8 (3.4%) of the 9 (4%) who had been married had either separated or divorced.

Type of Occupation, Places of Operation and Incomes - As Table 33 below indicates, with an exception of only 2, the rest, 228 representing 99.1% were actively involved in

prostitution. 185 (80.4%) were full time sex vendors, 17 (7.4%) part time sex vendors, 15 (6.5%) sex customers and 11 (4.8%) pimps. They constitute a large percentage of the 58% unemployed females countrywide, 61.4% of whom are informal settlement dwellers.¹⁵²

Table 33: Respondent Prostitutes' Main Occupation

Nr	Prostitution Frequency	Frequency	Percent
1	Full time	185 (includes 1 mophiee)	80.4
2	Part-time	17	7.4
3	Customers of prostitution	15	6.5
4	Pimps	11	4.8
5	Not specified	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

The majority, 220, representing 95.7% of the research sample fell in Gidden's (2001:134) 'street walker' category of prostitutes. They operated in groups (197 - 85.7%) mainly in streets, bars, shebeens, casino and gambling houses, night clubs and lodges and hotels (122 - 53%). They were followed by 63 (27.4%) who operated in highways, river beds, bushes and cars, and 20 (8.7%) who operated inside trucks in truck stations, dry ports, and at borders posts. Only 8 (3.5%) were operating in their homes as house-prostitutes (Giddens 2001:134). This study's prostitutes' type and places of operation are shown in Tables 34 and 35 below.

Table 34: Respondent Prostitutes' Type of Operation

Nr	Type of Operation	Frequency	Percent
1	In groups	197	85.7
2	Alone	21	9.1
3	Pimped (by a foreign pimp)	7	3.0
4	Family group	3	1.3
5	Not applicable	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

¹⁵²Staff Reporter: 'NEF urges caution on labour hire.' The Namibian, Wednesday 24 February 2010:1. Windhoek.

Table 35: Respondent Prostitutes' Places of Operation

Nr	Places	Frequency	Percent
1	Streets/Bars-Shebeens/Casino-Gambling houses/Night Clubs/Lodges/Hotels	122	53.0
2	Highways/Riverbeds/Bushes/cars	63	27.4
3	Trucks/Truck Stations/Borders	20	8.7
4	Port	15	6.5
5	Homes	8	3.5
6	Not applicable	2	0.9
Total		23	100.00

Only 7 respondents (3%) earned an average of N\$2,000 a day, against the majority, 169 (73.5%) who earned between 50 and 200 Namibian Dollars per day and spent a minimum of N\$30 per day on transport to and from their places of operation. The transport amount drastically escalates for night mobility as indicated in the table below:

Table 36: Respondent Prostitutes' Earnings

Nr	Earnings	Frequency	Percent
1	N\$ 100.00	68	29.6
2	N\$ 200.00	66	28.7
3	N\$ 50.00	35	15.2
4	N\$ 500.00	26	11.3
5	N\$ 300.00	10	4.3
6	N\$2,000.00	7	3.0
7	N\$ 400.00	6	2.6
8	N\$ 10.00	5	2.2
9	N\$ 250.00	2	0.9
10	N\$ 150.00	2	0.9
11	Not applicable	2	0.9
12	N\$ 800.00	1	0.4
Total		230	100.00

Entry into Prostitution - As Table 37 illustrates, entry into prostitution was fairly recent, with the majority, 159 (69.1%) having entered prostitution after the millennium (2000). 38 (16.5%) had entered prostitution in the 2005 alone, compared to 60 (12.6%) who entered prostitution over a period of 20 years from 1980 to 1999.

Table 37: When Respondent Prostitutes Entered into Prostitution

Nr	Year Entered	Frequency	Percent
1	1970s	1	0.4
2	1980s	5	2.2
3	1990s	55	23.9
4	2000 -2004	121	52.6
5	2005 alone	38	16.5
5	Unspecified	10	4.4
Total		230	100.0

Reasons for Entry into Prostitution

(a) Family Poverty - Just like in the case of school drop-out rates, the main reason that forced most of the respondent prostitutes to enter prostitution was lack of money which accounted for 168 (70.9%). This figure collates with the Central Bureau of Statistics' latest review of poverty and inequality launched in Windhoek on Tuesday, November 18, 2008,¹⁵³ which classified almost one third (28%) of the Namibian households as poor and 13% as severely poor. The report also placed Namibia among the most unequal and polarized societies in the world. This finding affirms Key Informant No.1's contentions:

'Girls and young men are all the time arriving from the northern part of the country in search of work but find nothing. They just hit the streets. As a result, there are between 300-700 prostitutes who work the nights between 9pm and 1am. That is a big number, and yet it is all the time growing. Unemployment figures are very high, so prostitution is growing very fast. Some girls come from Walvis Bay. Nova Night Club which opened in 1994 and was commonly known as Walvis Bay's prostitution brothel closed in 2000. But there are other new ones.' The table below correlates this assertion.

¹⁵³Denver, Isaacs. 'Nearly a Third of Namibians are Poor'. The Namibian, Wednesday 19 November 2008:12. Windhoek.

Table 38: Why Respondent Prostitutes Entered into Prostitution

Nr	Reasons	Frequency	Percent
1	Lack of money (family poverty)	163	70.9
2	Family Confusion and lack of parental guidance	24	10.4
3	Peer Pressure	21	9.1
4	Joblessness and unemployment	5	2.2
5	Needs sex when away from home	4	1.7
6	Bad marriage	4	1.7
7	Traffickers	3	1.3
8	Teenage pregnancy	2	0.9
9	Bad working environment	2	0.9
10	Unspecified/Not applicable	2	0.9
Total1		230	100.0

(b) Other Family Challenges and Complications - Significantly, 45 (19.6%) attributed their entry into prostitution to what they termed as ‘family confusion’ (24 -10.4%); 21 (9.1%), peer pressure, 4 (1.7%), bad marriages; and 2 (0.9%) teenage pregnancy.

This finding is stressed by the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) expressed dismay at the rapid disintegration of the family in Namibia. During the 3-day first-ever Ministry of Health Conference on the Family held in Windhoek from 14 to 6th May 2008, Reverend Philip Strydom, the then Secretary General of CCN attributed the growing disintegration of the family in the country to tremendous social and economic pressures that are breaking family relationships and causing divorces. Reverend Strydom, who be-mourned the diminishing extended family, lamented thus:

‘Family tensions are compounded by situations of affluence as well as escalating unemployment and poverty levels which promote financial hardships, migratory labour, changed gender expectations, changing understandings and practices of sexuality, HIV/AIDS and illicit substance abuse, all which make it difficult for families to stand united’ (!Hoaes 2008:1).

CCN's concerns suggest that the family in Namibia as a socially accepted tool of socialization no longer has the capacity to meet the material, financial and psychological needs of growing up young people. This suggestion is reiterated by a 40-year-old Luderitz prostitute who stated:

'The biggest problem here is family break-down. Young girls have no proper parents. I came from a home where we were 7 siblings, 2 girls and 5 brothers. Our mother was the same, but we had different fathers. I didn't even know my father. Sometimes I think that is why I ended up like this. And now I lost my daughter. She died in 2002. She committed suicide after her boyfriend made her pregnant and deserted her. So I am alone in this world. Young girls here drop out of school. They take to sugar daddies, casinos, alcohol and drugs. Teenage pregnancy is rampant.'

UNICEF (1992:23) traces contemporary Namibian family vulnerability to colonial negative impact:

"The 'typical' black Namibian family lives in a rural area and is headed by a woman. Her husband is away for most of the year, employed (or looking for employment) in the city, or in a diamond, uranium, tin or copper mine of the south, leaving the woman responsible for raising the children and farming the family's plot of a few hectares."

(c) Joblessness, Unemployment and Poor Working Environment - were cited as some of the factors which subjected 7 (3.1%) members of this research sample into the business of the sale of the flesh.¹⁵⁴ They reflect the findings of the Namibia Labour Force Survey of 2004 which pegged unemployment in the country at 36.7%. The survey also revealed that rural populations are more affected than urban populations. In addition, just like the bulk majority of this research's social

¹⁵⁴These findings correspond to the factors that contributed to most of the respondent prostitutes' school drop-out rates.

group, the survey showed that more female youth dropped-out-of school than male youths. On average they were aged between 15 and 19 years and had no life skills and work experience to seek for viable employment.

And yet the problem could escalate. On Wednesday, 21 January 2009,¹⁵⁵ The National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) expressed concern over the looming loss of over 1,000 jobs when the Labour Hire Act came into force on March 1, 2009. It is important to note that the majority of the people employed through labour hire are those with minimal skills or none at all, such as security guards and cleaners.

It is also significant to note that the Central Bureau of Statistics Poverty and Inequality Review identified adequate education as a critical factor in addressing poverty and inequality in the country.¹⁵⁶ The report found that 50% of the people who had no formal education were poor compared to 26.7%, who were severely poor. This compared to only 12.6% of high school graduates who were classified as poor and 5.1% severely poor respectively. Markedly, poverty was not a factor among tertiary qualifications holders.

The linkage between poverty and inadequate social services to women and youth vulnerability and risky life styles and exploitation was ably illustrated by a trans-national truck driver found at the Noordoewer Border Post:¹⁵⁷

‘There is no public transport in Namibia. Trucks are the transport for travelling mothers and school children. But many bad things happen on the roads; when drivers are sleeping

¹⁵⁵Petronella Sibeene. ‘Unemployment Set to Soar’. New Era, Thursday 22 January 2009:1. Windhoek.

¹⁵⁶Denver, Isaacs. ‘Nearly a third of Namibians are Poor’. The Namibian, Wednesday 19 November 2008:12. Windhoek.

¹⁵⁷Taken from a direct interview this researcher had with the respondent.

in their trucks, girls jump in and offer them their bodies for money. The reality is that poverty is a major problem. Just deal with poverty and you will see the results!’¹⁵⁸

This finding tallies with the findings of a media reported 2008 study¹⁵⁹ which established that poverty was the main pushing factor for youth rural to urban migration and recommended that in order to halt it, government should establish better rural-based social services and life opportunities such as skills training.

In line with hypothesis one of this study, the findings of this section clearly demonstrate that ‘sex trafficking is embedded in social, economic and gender inequality characterized by capitalist mode of production in which the strongest survive and the weakest fall into its new ‘underclass’ social segment.

Exploitation and Health Risks

(a) The Role of Pimps in the Lives of Prostitutes - 63% of the respondents (145) stated they are pimped, against 85 (37%) who stated they operate independently without pimps.¹⁶⁰

(b) Respondent Prostitutes’ Health Status - Unprotected sex within prostitution and trafficking for exploitation purposes was evidenced by the high prevalence rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). More than half, 143 representing 62.1% of the respondents reported having suffered STDs compared to 65 (28.2%) who had not, and 22 (9.7%) who did not specify.

¹⁵⁸This truck driver also informed this researcher that one of his colleagues, while crossing the border, concealed 7 Congolese boys in his truck where border personnel found them almost suffocating to death. They arrested him.

¹⁵⁹Wezi Tjaronda. ‘Unemployed youths drift to cities more’. New Era, Friday 5 February 2010:l. Windhoek.

¹⁶⁰Pimping was found very common. Pimps were commonly seen hovering over their ‘girls’ as they call the prostitutes they control day and night.

(c) Types of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Respondent Prostitutes suffered - Prostitution-based STDs cut across the spectrum of common STDs such as Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Bola bola and Candida. They included HIV/AIDS and its commonly related opportunistic diseases such as Herpes, Zoster and Tuberculosis (TB) which had afflicted as many as 123 (53.5%). On a far smaller scale, other ailments included High Blood Pressure (HBP) and Pneumonia, both of which accounted for only 5 (2.2%).

Markedly, most of those who got sick (112 - 48.7%) sought medical treatment from clinics and hospitals (103 (47.8). Only 9 (3.9%) treated themselves at home, or went to traditional doctors.

(d) Birth Control - Although a high number of respondents, 179 (77.8%), reported using a combination of contraceptives in the form of condoms, traditional methods and oral sex to prevent pregnancies, human reproduction among prostituted and sexually exploited young girls and women was found high. 133 (57.8%) had had a total of 304 pregnancies from 267 men, which culminated to an average of 2.3 pregnancies and 2 men for each woman respectively. Only 57 (24.8%) had not been pregnant as indicated by tables 40, 41 and 42 below:

Table 39: Methods of Pregnancy Prevention

Nr	Method	Frequency	Percent
1	Contraceptives	63	27.4
2	Condoms	112	48.7
3	Oral sex	2	0.9
4	Traditional methods	2	0.9
5	Unspecified/Not applicable	51	22.1
Total		230	100.0

Table 40: Respondent Prostitutes' Pregnancy Frequency

Nr	No of Pregnancy	Total pregnancies	Frequency	Average	Percent
1	1	52	52		22.6
2	2	76	38		16.5
3	3	57	19		8.3
4	4	52	13		5.6

5	5	25	5		2.2
6	6	12	2		0.9
7	7	21	3		1.3
8	9	9	1		0.4
9	0	0	97		42.2
Total		304	230	2.3	100.0

Table 41: The Number of Sex Partners Respondent Prostitutes had been Pregnant from

Nr	No of men	Total men	Frequency	Average	Percent
1	1	56	56		24.3
2	2	142	43		18.7
3	3	193	17		7.4
4	4	241	12		5.2
5	5	261	4		1.7
6	6	267	1		0.4
7	0	0	97		42.2
Total		267	230	2	100.0

(e) Respondent Prostitutes' Family Responsibilities - High rate of human reproduction among this social group was evidenced by the large number of children they had. 143 (62.2%) had had 327 children, the majority of whom, 86 (37.4%) were aged below 10 years, 49 (21.3) teenagers between 11 and 19 years, and only 5 (2.2%) between 20 and 231 years. As is illustrated by Table 42 below, this means that these women, 90% (207) of whom were themselves young people aged between 10 and 35 years, with educational levels too low to make them socially and economically viable, had very high family responsibilities as can be seen in Tables 43 and 44 below.

Table 42: The Number of Children Respondent Prostitutes had each

Nr	Children per Mother	Total Children	Frequency	Average	Percent
1	1	61	61		42.6
2	2	66	33		23.1
3	3	72	24		16.8
4	4	44	11		7.7
5	5	35	7		4.9
6	6	12	2		1.4
7	7	21	3		2.1
8	8	8	1		0.7

9	10	10	1		0.7
Total		329	143	2.3	100.00

Table 43: Respondent Prostitutes' Children's Age Range

Nr	Children's Age in Years	Frequency	Percent
1	1-10	86	60.1
2	11-19	49	34.3
3	20-31	5	3.5
4	Not specified	3	2.1
Total		143	100.00

(f) Child Support - What was worse still was the fact that the majority, 112 (48.7%) supported their children, 21. 3% (49) of whom lived with them themselves and 87 (37.8%) they supported while they (kids) lived with their relatives and friends. 33.5% (77) of these children were in school.

The bond and sense of responsibility the prostituted women of this study feel for their children is illustrated by **Case Study No. 8**. Despite this 31-year-old AIDS full-blown prostitute woman being weak and frail, she still parades the streets in search of money to pay fees for her 3 High School-going teenage sons in the hope that by the time she succumbs to AIDS, 'they have finished school and are able to stand on their own feet'. Tables 45 and 46 below show the respondents' children's caregivers and school guardians.

Table 44: With whom Respondent Prostitutes' Children Live?

Nr	Who keeps the Children	Frequency	Percent
1	Self	49	34.3
2	Friends	11	7.7
3	Relatives	76	53.1
4	Independent adults	1	0.7
5	Their own mother	1	0.7
6	In jail	1	0.7
7	Not specified	4	2.8
Total		143	100.00

Table 45: Who pays School Fees for Respondent Prostitutes' Children?

Nr	Who Pays Children's School Fees	Frequency	Percent
1	Self	40	27.9
2	Relatives	26	18.2
3	Children's fathers	5	3.5
4	Child's mother	1	0.7
5	NGO (SOS)	3	2.1
6	Govt (Social Welfare)	2	1.4
7	Not specified	66	46.1
Total		143	100.00

(g) Respondent Prostitutes' Wishes and Aspirations for their Children - The huge responsibility that prostitute women shoulder to provide, support, and educate their young children is reflected in the equally high (125 (87.4%)) hopes, wishes and aspirations they have for their kids.

(h) Violence - As tables 47 and 48 below illustrate, the high rate of ill-health and social and economic burdens prostitute women bear is closely complimented by an equally high rate of violence and abuse they suffer on a day-today-basis. 194 representing 84.3% respondents stated that they had been subjected to physical violence by a range of objects in their prostituted life, against only 34 (14.8%) who had not, and 2 (0.4%) who did not specify.

Table 46: Violence Perpetrators among Respondent Prostitutes

Nr	Violence Perpetrators	Frequency	Percent
1	Street gangs	55	23.9
2	Traffickers	25	10.9
3	Police/Pimps	117	50.9
4	Sex customers	33	14.3
Total		230	100.00

Table 47: Objects used to Perpetrate Violence among Respondent Prostitutes

Nr	Violence Objects	Frequency	Percent
1	Not specified/Not applicable	37	16.0
2	Metal/Guns/Pangas/Knives	52	22.6
3	Bottles/fists/feet/belts/sticks/blooms/eggs/needles/hockey sticks/cups/stones	98	42.6

4	Newspapers/arrests	2	0.9
5	Animals/reptiles-snakes/monkeys/dogs/scorpions)	12	5.2
6	Tear gas	3	1.3
7	Rape	26	11.3
Total		230	100.00

A Zimbabwean prostitute (**Case Study No.9**) in Windhoek streets summarized the hazardous circumstances of prostitution:

“Most of the guys we take back to the lodge with us are in the 1st lane - they live very dangerous lives as drug dealers. You get used to it - you realize that that is your particular situation - you can't back out - you can't change it, you keep going until the end. Although I have friends, as a foreigner, I am always aware that if things go wrong, I am all alone. Ours is a lonely business.’

(i) **Rapes** - 195 representing 84.8% had been raped and 32 (13.9%) harassed, insulted, assaulted, beaten, robbed and starved. Their rapists included 162 (70.4%) law enforcement agents, 117 (50.9%) pimps, 55 (23.9%) street gangs, 33 (14.3%) sex customers and traffickers. 98 (42.6%) used bottles, fists, feet, belts, sticks, blooms, eggs, needles, hockey sticks, cups and stones, 52 (22.6%) metal objects including guns, pangs and knives, 26 (11.3%) rape, 12 (5.2%) animals/reptiles (snakes/monkeys/dogs/scorpions) and 5 (2.2%) tear gas and arrests.

The story of a 25-year-old South African homeless prostitute found in the streets of Luderitz serves to illustrate the level, impact and consequences of rape on the respondents of this study:

‘My whole life has been a total disappointment. I have so many things on my mind. I was raped several times. In December 2000, one guy from Cape Town raped and put finger in my private parts. I am homeless and worry about AIDS. Sometimes I sleep in raked cars. My step mother almost killed my child with witchcraft. I have suffered a lot.’

(j) Conflict with the Law and Crime Prevalence among Prostitutes - As is demonstrated by Table 49, prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation were both characterized by conflict with the law. 97, representing 42.2% of the respondent prostitute sample had been arrested and/or jailed for crimes that ranged from drunken fighting (28 - 16.5%) to illegal migration (20 – 8.7%), night street loitering (17 - 7.4%), thefts/robberies (5 - 2.2%) and 8 (3.5%) who had been arrested for possession and/or use of illicit drugs and suspected murder.

Table 48: Crimes for which Respondent Prostitutes had been Arrested and/or Jailed

Nr	Crimes	Frequency	Percent
1	Drunken fighting	38	16.5
2	Illegal migration	20	8.7
3	Night street loitering	17	7.4
4	Thefts/Robberies	5	2.2
5	Drugs	4	1.7
6	Suspected murder	4	1.7
7	Not specified/Not applicable	142	61.7
Total		230	100.00

(k) Alcohol and Drug use in Prostitution - Table 50 below highlights the fact that with the exception of only 5 respondents, the rest, 225 representing 97.6 used illicit drugs that ranged from alcohol, cigarettes, dagga, cocaine, ecstasy, glue, vinegar and Cannabis. This corresponds with Government and Law Enforcement Agencies' expressed¹⁶¹ concerns about high rates of alcohol and drug abuse in the country generally. The Ministry of Health associates alcohol and drug abuse to the growing rate of crime in the country (Gender Watch 2008:13).

Table 49: Type of Illicit Drugs Used in Street Prostitution

Nr	Types of Drugs	Frequency	Percent
1	Alcohol/Cigarettes/Dagga	75	32.6
2	Alcohol/Cigarettes	49	21.3
3	Alcohol/Cigarettes/Cocaine/Dagga	32	14.0
4	Alcohol/Cigarettes/Cocaine/Dagga/Ecstasy	24	10.4
5	Alcohol	22	9.6

¹⁶¹Denver Isaacs. 'Drug abuse in Namibia hits all-time high'. The Namibian, Tuesday June 23 2009:1. Windhoek.

6	Alcohol/Dagga	8	3.5
7	Cigarette/Dagga	5	2.2
8	Alcohol/Cocaine/Dagga	3	1.3
9	Alcohol/Cigarettes/Cocaine/Dagga/Glue	3	1.3
10	Alcohol/Cigarettes/Cocaine/Dagga/Vinegar	2	0.9
11	Cigarettes	1	0.4
12	Dagga/Cannabis	1	0.4
13	Unspecified	5	2.2
Total		230	100.00

The above findings demonstrate that the social, economic and moral life circumstances of prostitutes inevitably subject them to constant conflict with the law. They thus sharply contradicts hypothesis six of this study which proposes that adequate legal frameworks will curb trafficking for sexual exploitation, and motivated this researcher to closely examine the lives and circumstances of this study's respondent prostitutes' sex customers.

Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers

(a) Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Gender - Sex customers were predominantly males at 204 (88.6%) compared to 22 (9.6%) females and 2 (0.9%) transgender.

Table 50: Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Gender

Nr	Sex Customer's Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Males	204	88.6
2	Females	22	9.6
3	Transgender	2	0.9
4	Unspecified	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

(b) Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Race - Sex customers were mainly racially non-discriminatory. The majority of the respondent prostitutes, 189 (82.2%), served a combination of African/Coloured/European/Asians, against only 41 (17.8) who served only 1 race. 28 (12.2) served Africans only, 4 (1.7%) coloureds only, and 7 (3.0%) who stick to Europeans plus 2 gays.

Table 51: Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Race

Nr	Sex Customers' Race	Frequency	Percent
1	African/Coloured/European/Asian	189	82.2
2	Africans only	28	12.2
3	Coloured only	4	1.7
4	European only including 3 gays	7	3.0
5	Unspecified	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

(c) **Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' age:** Just like their sex vendors themselves, sex customers were found youthful. The majority, 146 (63.5%), were in their youth/middle age compared to 82 (35.6%) who were either middle or old age.

(d) **Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customer's Marital Status** - Most prostitutes (202 - 87.8%) are not bothered about the marital status of their customers as long as their customers have cash to pay for their sex services. Only 20 (8.7%) preferred single customers and 6 either married or divorced mainly primarily because such customers were perceived desperate and ready to spend more money on easy sex.

Table 52: Respondent Prostitutes' Customers' Marital Status

Nr	Customers' Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
1	Any (who has cash)	202	87.8
2	Single customers	20	8.7
3	Married/Divorced	6	1.7
4	Unspecified	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

(e) **Respondent Prostitutes' Customers' Educational Status** - Similarly, the majority of the prostitutes were not bothered about the educational status of their customers. Only 41 (17.8%) preferred educated customers, against 183 (79.6%) who stated their customers combined both the educated and the uneducated.

(f) Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Economic Status - Most prostitute respondents stated that the majority (209 - 90.7%) of their customers were either in paid or self employed work, compared to only 19 (8.3%) whose customers were unemployed or students (3) in full time study.

(g) Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Occupations - There was a close correlation between prostitution and the transport sector. Transporters, otherwise referred to as public drivers, dominated prostitution customers. More than half, 136 representing 59% of the respondents' customers were truck drivers, who constituted 98 (42.6% of the sample, followed by taxi/bus drivers at 38 (16.5%). Pimps (15 - 6.5%) and law enforcement agents (11 - 4.8%) combined represented 26 (11.3%) followed by tourists, street gangs and factory workers at 10 (4.3%) each. This was against a total of 41 (17.8%) who comprised a more elite social group of traders, civil servants, diplomats, business executives, farmers, miners, seamen/fishermen and students.

Table 53: Respondent Prostitutes' Sex Customers' Occupation

Nr	Sex Customers' Occupation	Frequency	Percent
1	Truck Drivers	98	42.6
2	Taxi/Bus Drivers	38	16.5
3	Pimps	15	6.5
4	Law Enforcement Agents	11	4.8
5	Tourists	10	4.3
6	Street gangs	10	4.3
7	Factory workers	10	4.3
8	Bar Attendants/Salesmen/Cross border Traders	9	4.0
9	Civil Servants/Diplomats/ Business Executives	9	4.0
10	Farmers	6	2.6
11	Miners	6	2.6
12	Seamen/Fishermen	5	2.2
13	Students	3	1.3
Total		230	100.00

(h) Respondent Prostitutes' Customers' Family Responsibility - Generally, prostitutes did not view their customers as responsible in terms of immediate and extended family care and support. Table 55 shows that only 7 (3.0%) knew their customers closely enough to qualify them as breadwinners, against a far majority, 201 (87.4% who were noncommittal. This finding is an indication that the relationship between the prostitute and her customer is strictly limited to the supply of sexual services in exchange for monetary reward without any other considerations in terms of the status and/or personal and social obligations on the part of either the service provider or the service recipient.

Table 54: Respondent Prostitutes' Customers' Family Responsibility

Nr	Family Responsibility	Frequency	Percent
1	Some have/Others don't	201	87.4
2	Unknown	19	8.3
3	Breadwinners	7	3.0
4	Not breadwinners	3	1.3
Total		230	100.00

(i) Reasons Respondent Prostitutes give for their Sex Customers' Sex Purchase - According to the prostitutes in this study, men's compelling desire for sex with young girls was the main reason that pushes male sex customers to buy illicit sex services. The majority, 126 (54.8%) pointed to men's need for youthful sex, followed by 56 (24.3%) who stated that most of their male customers believe that as men, they are entitled and have the right to have sex whenever they feel they need it irrespective of the circumstances of their particular situation at any given time. This means that should a married man be away from home, and he feels he needs to have sex nothing should hinder him from getting it.

This compelling need to satisfy their sex desires was pointed to by 27 (11.7%) respondents who found that their customers were mainly those who wanted easy sex without any strings and/or

responsibilities attached to it. Such customers shared a symbiotic relationship with the prostitutes who generally sought easy money without any strings attached. They enter into no contractual obligations with their customers, just providing quick services and getting paid for them. Contrary to widely held view that most married men go to prostitutes because they are frustrated with their partners and therefore, feel lonely, only 11 (4.7%) pointed to this trend. But perhaps this could be attributed to the fact that only 7 (3.0%) prostitutes had adequate familiarity with their customers.

Table 55: Reasons Respondent Prostitutes say push their Customers to buy Sex

Nr	Reasons	Frequency	Percent
1	Men want sex with young girls	126	54.8
2	Men must have sex anytime simply because they are men irrespective of whether they are home or not	56	24.3
3	Men want easy sex without strings attached	27	11.7
4	Homos/Lesbians want porno sex	8	3.5
5	Married sex customers want exotic/crazy sex they aren't free to do with their wives/they feel frustrated & lonely	11	4.7
6	Unspecified	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

(j) The Treatment Respondent Prostitutes get from their Sex Customers - As can be seen in Table 57 below, on the whole, the majority of the prostitutes 105 (45.6%) found their customers cruel, abusive and not always ready to pay for services rendered. Only 22 (9.6%) found their customers kind, generous and ready to pay for their services, against 87 representing 37.8% who were non-committal, and 16 (6.9%) who could not specify.

Table 56: Type of Treatment Respondent Prostitutes say they get from their Sex Customers

Nr	Treatment	Frequency	Percent
1	Cruel/abusive/poor pay	105	45.6
2	Some are generous/kind/pay well/Others are not	87	37.8
3	Unspecified	16	6.9
4	Generous/pay well/kind/none abusive	22	9.6
Total		230	100.00

(k) What Respondent Prostitutes say about their Customers' 'Safe-Sex Practices' - Table 58 demonstrates the fact that this study found prostitution and sexual exploitation extremely unsafe. Only 13 (5.7%) always used protection, against the bulk majority of 213 (92.6%) who either used protection only sometimes or did not at all, and 4 (1.7%) who couldn't specify.

Table 57: Do their Customer's use 'Safe-Sex Practices'?

Nr	Use of Protection	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	183	79.6
2	Don't	30	13.0
3	Always use protection	13	5.7
4	Unspecified	4	1.7
Total		230	100.00

Where Respondent Prostitutes go for Assistance - Ironically, while the prostitutes and sexually exploited women, young adolescents and children of this study reported that they suffer a lot of violence and abuse at the hands of varying people across the social spectrum including law enforcers themselves, Table 59 shows that more than half (117 - 50.8%) of the 139 (60.4%) who seek assistance when in trouble stated they approach police for help.

Table 58: Where they Sought Help

Nr	Frequency	Places	Percent
1	117	Police	50.8
2	3	NGOs	1.3
3	3	Social Welfare	1.3
4	3	Parents	1.3
5	9	Church	3.9
6	2	Street gangs	0.9
7	2	Pimps	0.9
8	86	Not applicable/Unspecified	37.4
9	3	Friends	1.3
10	2	Hospital/Clinic	0.9
Total	230		100.00

Do the Respondent Prostitutes of this Study Feel they are Recipients of National Legal and Policy Protections?

The Connection to 2010 FIFA World Cup Games - Prostitutes in Namibia do not feel they enjoy equal legal and policy protections and service delivery as other members of the society. Thus study found that only 1 of its 230 respondents came from Namibia's previously advantaged social group.

On Thursday, September 24, 2009, the Namibian Sun Newspaper carried a front page story entitled, 'SEX WORKERS DEMAND GOVERNMENT PROTECTION AS 2010 NEARS'.¹⁶² The paper quoted 'retired sex workers from a Windhoek faith-based rehabilitation project, The King's Daughters' calls on the Government to recognize their profession and facilitate the necessary protection for them especially ahead of the FIFA World Cup Games in South Africa in June 2010. Legal Assistance Centre (LAC)¹⁶³ concurs with The King's Daughters. It asserts that continued criminalisation of prostitution exposes sex workers to widespread sexual physical abuses including from law enforcement agents as well as health risks. They point to life threatening health hazards such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS transmission and limited access to health facilities. They argue that prostitution should be decriminalized to provide legal and social protections to those who engage in it. However, it is noteworthy that LAC does not share The King's Daughters' view that prostitution should be encouraged as a means of earning a living.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶²Staff Reporter. 'Sex Workers Demand Government Protection as 2010 Nears'. Informante, Thursday 24 September 2009:1. Windhoek.

¹⁶³Catherine Sasman. 'Sex workers clamour for rights.' New Era, Thursday 3 September 2009:4. Windhoek.

¹⁶⁴Emsie Erastus and Tjihenua. 'High Risks for Brisk Business.' Namibian Sun, Thursday, 24 September 2009:2. Windhoek.

On their part, while the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) recognizes the issues that force many women and young adolescents into prostitution and sex trafficking, rather than encourage them to look at the 2010 FIFA World Cup Games as an opportunity to make money and in the process expose themselves to such exploitative, hazardous and life threatening activities, the desires to instead equip them with alternative means of earning their living in more decent and dignified ways.

Did Respondent Prostitutes of this Study feel they still have any Hope for their Future? - It

is important to note that while 11 (4.8%) of the respondents of this study felt that it was too late for them to have hopes and aspirations, the greater majority, 190 (82.6%), wished to be rescued through counselling (68 - 29.6%), return to school (49 - 21.3%), be trained in some life saving skills (43 - 18.7%), and start a business (30 - 13%). Notably, even 8 (3.8%) wished to be reunited with their families and children, get married and nurture what they considered 'decent families'.

Against this hopefulness however, lays a deep sense of hopelessness, as expressed by a Zimbabwean prostitute found in the Streets of Windhoek City (**Case Study No.9**):

'I have no plans; none at all. I long stopped planning. I only live each day as it comes. Destitution has become my daily routine and prostitution is my destiny. That is what I came here to do. But if an opportunity presented itself I would very much wish to go back to school, and reclaim my education. People call me a bitch. That means that they think I no longer have a head. I hate it because I believe my head is still balanced.'

Table 59: Respondent Prostitutes' Wishes and Desires

Nr	Wishes/Desires	Frequency	Percent
1	Rescue/Counselling/work	68	29.6
2	Return to school	49	21.3
3	Skills training	43	18.7
4	Start a business	30	13.0
5	Not specified	13	5.6
6	None, it is too late	11	4.8
7	Legalize gay	5	2.2
8	Get married, raise a decent family	3	1.3
9	Change/get more decent job	3	1.3
10	Family reunion	3	1.3
11	Get back their children	2	0.9
Total		230	100.00

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, discussion, conclusions and recommendations of this study, within the context of the life circumstances of the women, young adolescents and children who formed an integral part of its effort to determine whether or not present-day sex trafficking within the largely global human trafficking phenomenon is affecting the Namibian society.

5.2. Summary of Findings

The results of both the quantitative and qualitative data of this study have served to reveal a number of fundamental issues regarding the existence, prevalence, extent and impact of trafficking of prostitutes for sexual exploitation purposes in Namibia:

Existence - Trafficking of prostitutes for sexual exploitation is not only happening within and beyond the Namibian national borders, but it has become a growing social phenomenon. While the researcher was unable to identify any single judiciary proved case of human trafficked by prosecution primarily due to lack of legislation on human trafficking in Namibia prior to 5 May 2009 when the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, POCA, of 2004 was enforced, she treated all those respondents who claimed to have been trafficked or those who stated they knew friends, relatives or neighbours who had been trafficked, as possible incidents of human trafficking.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁵Proved cases of human trafficking would have been prosecuted in Courts of Law. The researcher was unable to identify any single proved case of human trafficked by prosecution. This was mainly due to lack of legislation on human trafficking in Namibia until 5 May 2009 when the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, POCA, of 2004 was enforced. She therefore, treated all those respondents who claimed to have been trafficked or those who stated they knew friends, relatives or neighbours who had been trafficked, as possible incidents of human trafficking.

Thus, from the quantitative sample of 230, 68 respondents had themselves been victims of sex trafficking, while 38 knew a friend, relative or neighbour had been trafficked.

Nature and Extent

(a) Characteristics - Sex trafficking in Namibia as a gendered activity that targeted females more than males was found closely associated with a fast growing phenomenon of prostitution. It bore both a regional and international face as it took on all the characteristics of contemporary human trafficking as a country of origin, transit and destination. Prostitutes had been trafficked out of Namibia into the regional and international sex industry in four SADC and 7 Western countries, while others had arrived and/or transited through the country from and to other African nations.

(b) Traffickers - There is a close bond between prostitution and sex traffickers, principally because prostitutes and their traffickers share a common social and economic background. They are generally unequal, disadvantaged and marginalized members of social groups that fall under a new social class commonly known as 'the under-class'. They are trapped in a society fast transiting from tradition to modern, colonial to a capitalist economic state and mainly rural to urban base with all the complexities that characterize such fast transition. Thus, already socially and economically disadvantaged prostitutes in Namibia are trafficked into further sexual exploitation mainly by people they share a close **affinity** and **symbiosis** with. Such people include, but are not limited to truck drivers, drug loads, pimps, sex customers, fellow prostitutes and other travel facilitators and labour hire agencies.

(c) International Sex Networks - There exists an-inter-connectedness between sex trafficking activities in Namibia, its immediate neighbouring countries in the sub-regional and the global

trafficking networks. This was of particular relevance to the All Africa Cup of Nations in Angola in June 2010 and the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) World Cup tournament in South Africa in August 2010.

Causes

Social, Economic Stratification and Disadvantage - This study concludes that prostitutes in Namibia are targeted for trafficking for sexual exploitation primarily because of the lower social and economic status women and young girls are culturally and traditionally accorded at the family, community and societal levels generally that renders them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This is in line with UNICEF and IOM both who point to social and economic stratification and inequality, disadvantage and vulnerability as the main driving force of both prostitution and trafficking, especially of young girls and women. Ruppel (2008:21) reiterates this notation when she asserts that ‘women’s situation is made worse by social pressures, lack of access to legal information and/or protection, lack of structures that effectively and strictly prohibit violence against them, inadequate efforts in enforcing existing laws, and the absence of educational programmes to address violence at all levels’.

Social, Cultural and Legal Unacceptability - The results of this study have simultaneously shown that trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation are not only culturally and traditionally intolerable, but are legally unacceptable to the Namibian society. While Namibia still does not have a comprehensively stand-alone law against trafficking in persons, Sub Sections 15 and 16 of the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) No. 29 of 2004 makes ‘trafficking-in-persons in Namibia and to and from foreign countries’ a punishable offence against the Namibian society.

Similarly, whereas the Namibian law does not make prostitution itself a prosecutable crime, prostitution remains illegal under both statutory and customary law of the Namibian Nation. It is in this regard that Article 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia protects all citizens against social and economic exploitation in the form of slavery, servitude and forced labour, while Article 95 obligates the state to ensure the protection and welfare of all people, even in the face of abuse and exploitation.

Consequences - Sex trafficking in Namibia was found both physically and morally risky. The majority, 94.1% had faced physical and bodily harm including health hazards such as STDs and HIV/AIDS, contributing to the ever growing levels of violence among women, young girls and children in the country.

Interventions

(a) Care and Support Service delivery - Whereas the results of this study demonstrate that the majority of the prostitutes trapped in sex trafficking in Namibia desire to positively improve their lives, the researcher was not able to identify adequate victim recovery, support, care, rehabilitation and reintegration services that are targeting this particular social group.

(b) Judicial Protections - This study found that whereas prostitutes and trafficked adolescents and women, like any other members of the Namibian Society, enjoy available judicial protections, there was no specific unit within the current law enforcement system to deal with missing persons. Given the fact that trafficked persons are almost always moved under dubious circumstances, the absence of such a structure increases the vulnerability of those members of the society that are susceptible to the perpetrators of trafficking.

It is important to note, however, that in a public statement on 27 January 2010, Inspector General of Police Sebastian Ndeitunga informed the general public that Police daily public briefings on crime would soon take on new and enhanced approaches. Such approaches would include making available names of wanted or missing persons; crime prevention education on emerging crimes and new operandi; provision of tips on how to prevent prevalent crimes in specific towns and areas; as well as how to access various police services . In this respect, the Namibian Police had started forming police public committees throughout the country to curb crime.¹⁶⁶

5.3. Discussion of Findings

Consequential Parasitic Symbiosis - Although prostitutes and their traffickers share an affinity and a symbiotic relationship, this study found that rather than resonate a social solidarity that is steeped in shared social and economic advantages, theirs is an unequal exploitative relationship. The result is that such affinity is destructive rather than constructive and is embroiled in gross gender-based-violence, abuse and exploitation. Thus the **parasitic symbiosis** that exists between prostitutes and their traffickers becomes a complex trap in which its victims meet their death-beds at the hands of their comrades, through deception, manipulation, violence, diseases and trauma.

This finding reiterates both CTIP Annual Reports assertions and the European Council (EC)'s belief that trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitation is a fast growing social and economic illicit activity that adversely affects the physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing of their victims. UNFPA braces this belief when it concludes:

¹⁶⁶Staff Reporter. 'Community policing introduced to fight crime'. New Era, Thursday, 28 January 2010:7. Windhoek.

‘For women and young girls, poverty means not only lack of income but lack of control over that income as well as lack of autonomy, dignity and leisure’, which are themselves the epitome of social injustice’, (Gender Watch 2008:20).

Sociological Theory Position - It is in this respect that this thesis positions trafficking, prostitution and exploitation of women and young adolescents in the Namibian Society in a combination of sociological theories:

1. Sweetman (1995:2)’s theory of **social transition** which argues that social change inevitably throws special challenges to vulnerable groups especially poor women and children;
2. Mbwende’s theory of **Social disruption that argues that social transition** brings ruptures, conflicts and contradictions, and inevitably promotes social and economic vulnerability through unplanned and unstructured change such as was instigated by 19th century widespread colonialism;
3. **Karl Marx** (1978:2021)’s **Class struggle theory** which argues class promotes social and economic inequality and breeds social injustice;
4. **Tapscott’s (1995:165) ‘underclass’ social formation theory** which argues that transition creates social structures that inevitably shape members of such structures culturally, socially and economically, the resultant of which is an underclass, which accordingly acts to reinforce the very structures that direct their agency:

‘In view of the shortage of formal wage opportunities, the majority of the new work seekers in the urban areas are compelled to seek employment in the informal sector. However, due to the absence of a strong productive base in Namibia, the informal sector is supported largely by recycling of wages earned in the formal sector, and its capacity to

absorb the influx of migrants is severely constrained. This implies that levels of urban unemployment are likely to increase rather than decrease in the years to come. The consequence of this expansion in the numbers of the urban unemployed is likely to be the consolidation of a new underclass. ----- The steady rise in crime rates in Windhoek since independence is probably indicative of this trend' (Ingolf Diener and Olivier Graefe, 2001:318).

5. Taylor, Walton and Young (1973)'s conflict theory of deviant behaviour, which argues that because socially and economically unviable social groups (underclass) are socially segregated, isolated and alienated, they develop behaviour that effectuate common survival mechanisms and sustenance.

This thesis, therefore, submits that any mode of production that promotes the concept of 'the strongest survive', while the 'weakest die away', is not only inappropriate to human coercion but to human survival and development.

It is in this respect that Kiremire (2007:17) concurs with Karl Marx (1978:2021)'s assertion that 'that the mode of production of material life conditions the general process of such social, political and intellectual life, and breeds social and economic inequality and exploitation with a distinct gender pattern'. She thus locates sex trafficking and prostitution in Karl Marx's (1978:2021) 'relations of production which constitute both 'social and economic foundations, upon which rises a legal and political superstructure which define forms of social consciousness'.

In this regard, the concept of social consciousness presumes a level of social responsibility over all the members of the respective social structure, including those who, because of their

particular social and economic circumstances, resort to prostitution; and those who because of poor working conditions and dissatisfaction, resort to trafficking for self gratification due to the absence of such social responsibility. The absence of such responsibility prompts this thesis to advance the concept that prostitutes and their traffickers are therefore, unequal and marginalized social groups whose particular circumstances have rendered them socially isolated and alienated.

In his articulation of the hierarchy of the essential human needs, Maslow (Hodson and Sullivan. 2002:92) states that for a human being to feel complete, he/or she needs physiological satisfaction (food and sex), physical and emotional safety, social acceptance, social recognition, attention and appreciation, and attainment of one's full potential. Melvin Seeman (Hodson and Sullivan. 2002:92) goes on to add that social alienation manifests in powerlessness, self-estrangement, meaninglessness, isolation and normlessness.

The absence of the level of social responsibility that ordinarily facilitates human social integration and contentment prompts this thesis to argue that prostitutes and their traffickers (mainly truck drivers as this research reveals) turn to deviance to gain social recognition and material wellbeing to fit in societies under transition to capitalist economic states.¹⁶⁷ They fall in what Sweetman (1995:2) refers to as:

“The process of transition, whether the upheaval is perceived to be a result of international economic policy, of a change of political system, or of a shift in cultural or religious beliefs, throws down a challenge to the women and men who pass through it”.

¹⁶⁷This was accessed on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_criminology downloaded on 24 June 2009.

In sum, people who fall prey to trafficking in persons for sex slavery, physical labour, human disposable and slave contrabands in deplorable conditions are falling in the nets of profits maximization. They do not feature in national statistics, and are generally, none issue.

This thesis therefore advances that because prostitution and human trafficking for exploitation purposes are both illegal and illicit crimes that hurt their victims physically, psychologically, mentally and morally, they violate their right to viable human existence. It thus asserts that it is here that the legal responsibility of the Namibian Nation is embedded. Invariably, in Namibia, acts of trafficking in persons and prostitution are illegal acts that are socially, culturally, constitutionally, and legally unacceptable. Anyone who, individually and/or collectively, engages and/or successfully carries them out, not only violates culturally and traditionally acceptable social norms, but commits illegal acts. He or she can therefore only do so in hidden circumstances, a situation that categorizes these vices under deviant behaviour characteristic of the underclass social groups whose existence sharply contracts the aims and objectives of Vision 2030.

5.4. Recommendations

The results of this research established that sex trafficking, prostitution and exploitation are illicit social activities that are embedded in social, economic and gender inequality, lack of life sustaining opportunities, social and political violence, inadequate service delivery and insufficient legal protections. The researcher thus, takes the liberty to recommend the following strategies to the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), in conjunction with the Civil Society, Faith-Based and Community-Based Organizations, as well as Academic Institutions and

International development agencies which are working towards alleviating and/or eliminating these problems:

6.1. Reduce the country's current high social and economic stratification (Gini Co-efficiency) that is fostering increasing social and economic inequality and vulnerability generally. In this connection, in order to curtail poverty and disadvantage and to ensure life sustaining opportunities the majority of this study's respondents lacked, concrete efforts should be made to develop strong and adequate national social and economic policies and protections that focus on domestic and institutional empowerment of young people such as stronger family structures, education, skills development and employment creation.

6.2. Redefine a youth - In order to avoid the ambiguity that currently characterises who a youth¹⁶⁸ in Namibia is, it is recommended to formulate a new definition.

6.3. Reduce gender imbalance and social, economic and cultural injustice - which are characteristics of this study's respondents. In this regard, it is recommended that Namibia urgently implements the SADC Gender Protocol in its entirety.

6.4. Redefine TIP - In order to facilitate a national uniform and holistic understanding and interpretation TIP should re-defined to reflect a Namibian context.

6.5. Review Legislation - In order to ensure full protection of all members of the Namibian society from the potential of falling victims to this heinous modern crime, and to protect those who get affected it by it through effective offender arrests, profiling and prosecution in line with Namibia's existing local, regional and international commitments, Namibia enacts a comprehensive anti TIP legislation.

¹⁶⁸The Constitution defines a youth as any person aged between 15 and 30 years; National Youth Council defines a youth as any person aged between 15 and 35 years, while the Customary Law has no age limit.

6.6. Strengthen Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Systems - the Ministries of Home Affairs (MOHA) and Finance (MoF) should improve all porous borders and beef up immigration and customs at all the country's ports and borders through training, retraining and increasing law enforcement agents; motivating police so they work harder; increase and upgrade all border posts and police stations; while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) sensitizes other government ministries and institutions on Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

6.7. Ensure establishment of adequate prevention and protection service-delivery systems through which Government establishes and encourages existing social justice organisations and/or groups including NGOS, CBOs and (FBOs) to engage in the solution-seeking and intervention processes and to create victim safe houses/zones. Such efforts could include a national anti TIP Campaign spearheaded by the Head of State and supported by both the national media and a group of 'significant others' to raise public awareness; monitor TIP adverts; improve laws and policies; commence prevention programme and deter child/youth vulnerability; create a coordinating body comprising ministries of Information, GECW, Agriculture, Education and Labour; establish a code of conduct for tourists; promote freedom of speech; create a network of whistle blowers to eliminate corruption in the country; prohibit truck drivers from smuggling people and ensure trucking companies become part and parcel of protecting society against human trafficking; and ensure the fight against human trafficking as a whole is integrated in the national agenda including all mega national social events.

6.8. At the regional level - The process of establishing the African regional integration should not ignore the impact of human trafficking on the region as a whole. Therefore, the region needs to redefine TIP in the African concept; launch a massive regional campaign to raise the awareness and sensitise the general public about the problems of prostitution and trafficking for

sexual and other types of exploitation purposes. In this respect, Namibia, together with its SADC neighbouring nations should strengthen their efforts towards curbing trans-boundary women and young adolescents trafficking. This should include information, education and communication strategies on child labour along all border areas; ensure safe tourism; utilize the African Prosecutors Association (APA) to address TIP in SADC countries; encourages SARPCCO to bring all SADC countries together to fight human trafficking; special attention should be given to internal trafficking; training law enforcers; reinforce the border posts; improvement of labour laws; formulate and enact strong uniformly explicit anti-human trafficking laws that could help to counter TIP by deterring potential trafficking crimes and prosecuting its perpetrators; engage strategic Civil Society Organizations stakeholders; encourages African leaders to develop a willingness to give up a piece of their sovereignty for the sake of their people; urgently harmonize national policies against social and economic disadvantage and human vulnerability; and make TIP an integral part of all regional mega social events such as FIFA and COSAFA tournaments in order to counter possible negative social impact.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Definitions¹⁶⁹

Abduction: An illegal act of taking away by force, usually for abuse and exploitation.

Absolute poverty:¹⁷⁰ A situation of an individual who lacks the resources necessary to meet basic subsistence living.

Agency: Power, force

Border Pass: A one-day visa issued at border posts to facilitate mobility of border community members to visit family member and relatives across the borders.

Child: Every human being below the age of eighteen years (UNICEF: 1990:45).

Child labour: The act of using children to do hard physical (manual) work. It comprises all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour. It includes forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict as well as the use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography, or pornographic performances (ILO 1999:5).

Child laundering: To illicitly, fraudulently, forcefully secure children through false means (purchase and/or abduction) and process them, through false paperwork, into "orphans" and then adoptees for exploitation purposes.¹⁷¹

Cocaine: Powerfully addictive stimulant drug.

Coercion: The act of persuading an unwilling person by force to do something.

Commercial sexual exploitation: The use of a person for sexual purposes in exchange for cash or favours in-kind between the person herself/himself, the customer, intermediary or agent and others who profit from the trade for these purposes. Commercial Sexual Exploitation includes prostitution, exotic dancing, pornography, computer exploitation, erotic massage and trafficking for sexual purposes.

Consent: According to Articles 3(b) and (c) of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons of 2000 consent is irrelevant when considering cases in which

¹⁶⁹Introduction - It is important to highlight that these definitions were compiled within the confines of the study topic, namely, sex trafficking as used in this thesis.

¹⁷⁰Giddens, Anthony. 2005. Sociology. Cambridge. Polity Press.

¹⁷¹As per David M. Smolins', 2007 categorisation of child laundering as a form of human trafficking.

force and/or coercion have been used to traffick people from their familiar habitations into unknown situations.¹⁷²

Control: The power to influence people's behaviour or actions.

Crack: An un-neutralised rock crystal form of cocaine that can be heated and its vapour smoked by drug users.

Criminalization (of Prostitution): Exchange of sexual services for income that is considered a crime under the law. Both the buyer and the seller are considered criminals.

Debt Bondage: The Status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or of those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined.¹⁷³

Deception: Impressions and promises falsely made, especially for purposes of exploitation and abuse.

Decriminalization (of prostitution): Removes all laws on the exchange of sexual services for incomes; prostitution is not considered a crime under decriminalization law.

Destitution: The state of extreme poverty and inability to provide for ones-self that manifests in hopelessness and helplessness.

Early marriage: Marriage before socially and legally acceptable age.¹⁷⁴

Exploitation: Social or institutional relationship in which one person benefits at the expense of the other through an imbalance in power.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷²United Nations General Assembly. 2000. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. New York. UN

¹⁷³According to the Supplementary Convention to the Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery and Human Rights Watch Report of 2003, 'In the context of trafficking in women, debt bondage usually occurs when traffickers assist women in travelling, making illegal border crossings, and finding employment, often in the form of commercial sex work, and then require the women to "work off" the debt they owe for the services provided. In situations of debt bondage, women become virtual prisoners, as they are unable to ever earn back the amount purportedly owed to the traffickers. Trafficked women are prevented from escaping their situation through debt bondage as well as retention of travel documents, violence and threats of violence against themselves or their families'.

¹⁷⁴In Namibia, under the Common Law, the age of consent is over 15 and 18 years for girls and boys respectively.

¹⁷⁵UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children of 2000 states that exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution (obtaining financial or other benefits) of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs and that it can also involve forcing people into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (UNDOC 2007:4).

Force consent: Where threats, violence and economic leverage such as debt bondage can often make victims consent to exploitation against their will.

Forced labour:¹⁷⁶ Work or services extracted from a person under the menace of any penalty that person has not voluntarily offered.

Fraud: An illegal act of intentional deception for personal gain or damage to another person.¹⁷⁷

Gang: An interstitial group originally formed spontaneously through collective behaviour, bonded in a common tradition with structures, solidarity, morale, group awareness and attached to a local territory and characterized by conflict.

Gender: The cultural/societal normativity of a person's sex of men and women.

Globalization: The process of linking the World's systems and activities within a system of inequality.

Harbouring: The act of secretly, keeping away.

Household Subsistence Level Measure: A figure arrived at by using a basket of essential goods, as well as essential services for a household's subsistence.¹⁷⁸

Human trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of physical force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation.¹⁷⁹

Indentured Labour: Is a contract by which a person agrees to work for a colonial landowner for a set period in exchange for passage to the colony. In Namibia indentured labour followed the 1904-1907 War of Resistance defeat of the local populations.

Kidnapping: An act of abducting, capturing, carrying off, illicitly removing, stealing away.

Labour trafficking: The recruitment, harbouring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labour services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. Such violations might

¹⁷⁶ILO. Article 2:1 of ILO Convention No. 29, on Forced Labour. Genève. ILO.

¹⁷⁷<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraud> down loaded on 3 June 2009

¹⁷⁸Namibia's current Household Subsistence Level Measure stands at N\$399.80

¹⁷⁹United Nations Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children of 2000. It supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In his article on Child Laundering, David M. Smolins (2005) states that traffickers sometimes trick and lure their victims by false promises through manipulative tactics such as intimidation, feigned love, isolation, debt bondage, or other abuses including feeding with drugs to best control them. Traffickers take away the basic rights of their victims who usually lose their freedom at the point of their destination and become enslaved through highly exploitative debt bondages.

include domestic services, manufacturing, construction, migrant labouring and other services obtained through subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.¹⁸⁰

Legalization (of prostitution): Means that the State regulates prostitution.

Marijuana: A dry, shredded green/brown mix of flowers, stems, seeds and leaves of the addictive hemp plant cannabis sativa.

Mischlingen: A term to describe off-springs of mixed ancestry during colonial days.

Paedophilia: A person who recruits young people children and for sexual abuse and exploitation.

Partial criminalization of prostitution: Is where the buyer of the services of a prostitute is guilty of a crime but the prostitute is not. It is based on the notion that the prostitute is a victim.

Pimp: A man who controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them for a portion of their prostitution earnings.

Pornography: Any visual or audio material which uses people in a sexual context. It consists of the visual depiction of a person engaged in explicit sexual conduct, real or simulated, or the lewd exhibition of the genitals intended for the sexual gratification of the user, and involves the production, distribution and/or use of such material.

Poor: A group of four individuals living on less than N\$262 a month and spending 60% of that income on food alone.¹⁸¹

Poverty: A state of a general lack of material and cultural (inherited) resources that provide for wellbeing of a person (Scot and Gordon 2005:512). MAPODE (2002:4) defines poverty as the absolute deprivation of life sustaining opportunities.

Poverty line: Sets the boundary, and consequently, the numbers of the poor; In other words, the number of people in a particular society who live under US\$1 a day.

Prohibition: Ban, bar, disallow, embargo, forbid, inhibit, interdict, obstruct, prevent, taboo, veto.

Prostitution: The granting of sexual favours for monetary gain and/or engaging or offering the services of a person to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person.

Receipt (in human trafficking): The act of receiving a victim of trafficking.

¹⁸⁰USA Trafficking Victims Violence Prevention Act (TVPA) of 2000

¹⁸¹Nangula Shejvali. 'Human story lost behind poverty figures.' The Namibian, Friday, 16 October 2009:3. Windhoek.

Relative poverty: Social and economic deprivation of an individual or a group of people compared to the standard of living enjoyed by other members of their particular society.

Recruitment: Mobilizing by persuading and convincing (targeted) trafficking victims.

Regulation (of prostitution): Legally permitted and protected prostitution.

Removal of organs (in human trafficking): Means human trafficking for the purpose of removing of human organs for trade.

Rotation: A common practice where victims of trafficking are moved between cities as a means of disorientation.

Servitude: A dependency condition where a person's services are provided under threat.

Severely poor: A household which lives on less than N\$185 a month, and spends 80% of that income on food only.¹⁸²

Sex-trafficking: The recruitment, harbouring, transportation, provision and/or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of eighteen years old.

Slave: Is a person who is owned by another and obliged to work without pay.

Slavery: The status or condition of a person over whom the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised. It is therefore, first and foremost, an institution of coerced labour. It embraces debt bondage, serfdom, forced or servile marriage and delivery of children for exploitation otherwise known as illegal adoption.

Smuggling: The act of smuggling migrants that involves the procurement, for financial or other material benefit, of illegal entry of a person into a state of which that person is not a national or resident. It is an illegal service provided by smugglers to people who voluntarily request smugglers' services for fees without necessarily there being any deception involved in the agreement. The relationship between a smuggler and a smuggle ends at their destination when the smuggled person has arrived at their destination and is free. Smuggling has no further exploitation (Dottridge (2004:9).

Symbiotic relationship: An interaction between two different bodies living in close physical association for each other's advantage.

Transfer (in human trafficking): The act of moving and transporting a victim of human trafficking from the recruitment point to the trafficking destination.

¹⁸²The Namibian Newspaper. 'Annual Address of Mr. T.K. Alweendo, Governor of the Bank of Namibia.' Friday, 13 November 2009:21. Windhoek.

Transportation: The movement of trafficked persons by vehicles, aircrafts or boats to the trafficking destination.

Trafficking victim: Persons who have been recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Vulnerability (to human trafficking): Defencelessly exposed.

Worst forms of child labour: Comprises all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict as well as the use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production or pornography or for pornographic performances.

Youth: A youth is any person between the age of 16 and 30 years.¹⁸³

¹⁸³This definition is taken from the revised Government of the Republic of Namibia National Youth Policy which was launched in Windhoek on Wednesday 2 August 2006.

Appendix II: Colloquial Expressions

Blue Drops	- A liquid prostitutes use to doze their customers before robbing them.
Camel	- Long distance heavy-duty truck.
Crack	- A rock (rockie) crystal form of un-neutralized cocaine that can be heated and its vapour smoked by drug users.
Crystal stones	- Prostitutes use them to treat STDs and prevent pregnancies.
Cuca Shop	- Informal liquor selling and drinking outfit.
Cuca shop boys	- Informal liquor shops juveniles spend most of their time drinking local brew.
Dry Queen	- A Male replica of a female prostitute.
Fishing	- Trapping prostitutes.
Ganja	- Dagga/Marijuana
Glue	- A street drug street juveniles sniff to get high.
Hunters	- Sex customers.
Indebted Labourer	- Trafficked victim of illegal migration under a debt bonding to be paid in sex Services; It can range from US\$40,000 to US\$55,000.
Joint	- A doze of drugs.
Madam	- Female recruiter or trafficker who fronts money in debt bonding.
Mama	- Female pimp.
Man	- Male trafficking travel facilitator, organizers or supervisor.
Moffie	- A male replica of a female prostitute
Pilletjies	- Mandrax pills.
Rastas	- Drug dealers.
Shebeen	- Informal liquor outfit
Stroller	- Street prostitute
Truck jumpers	- Highway prostitutes
Zooking	- The act of craftily robbing money from sex customers without exchanging it for sex

Appendix III: Research Tools

1. Introduction and Instruction - This pre-prepared closed-open-ended questionnaire was designed as a key tool to find out if women and young people who are involved in prostitution in Namibia are subject to human trafficking into further exploitative activities, including further prostitution, labour and crime in or beyond the Namibian borders.

The answers given to the questions in this questionnaire will be treated with the highest possible confidentiality, and will not be used against those individuals who respond to it.

You are therefore, kindly requested to fill it in as best and as precisely as you can. Please note that it is not necessary for you to write your name as individual names are not necessary for this study.

2. Closed Open Ended Research Questionnaire for a Qualitative and Quantitative Research on the Trafficking of Prostitutes for Exploitation Purposes in Namibia

1. Personal Particulars - about yourself *(Please tick the answer that is relevant to you only)*

- 1.1. What gender are you? Male -----Female-----
1.2. What is your age? -----
1.3. Which ethnic group do you come from?
 Damara ----- Nama ----- Herero ----- Lozi ----- Ovambo -----
 Owanyama ----- Coloured -----Buster-----White-----
1.4. What is your nationality? -----
1.5. What City/Town/Place do you live? -----
1.6. What is your marital Status?
 Single ----- Married ----- Separated ----- Widowed ----- Divorced ----- Cohabiting -----

2. Information about your family

(Please tick the answer that is relevant to you only)

- 2.1. Father: Alive -----Dead -----
2.2. Father's Marital Status: Single ----- Married ----- Separated ----- Divorced -----
 Remarried -----Widowed ----- Cohabiting -----
2.3. Mother: Alive ----- Dead -----

2.4. Mother's Marital Status: Single ----- Married ----- Separated ----- Divorced -----
Remarried -----Widowed ----- Cohabiting -----

2.5. About your siblings:

2.5a. Do you have any siblings? Yes ----- No-----

2.5b. How many siblings altogether? -----

2.5c. How many of your siblings are girls (sisters)? -----

2.5d. How many of your sisters are step sisters? -----

2.5e. How many of your siblings are boys (brothers)? -----

2.5f. How many of your brothers are step brothers? -----

2.5g. How many of your siblings died? -----

3. Information about your education - What education did you reach?

(Please tick the answer that is relevant to you only)

3.1. Highest Grade attained: None ----- below Grade 4 ----- Grade 5 ----- Grade 6 -----
Grade 7 ----- Grade 8 ----- Grade 9 ----- Grade 10 -----
Grade 11 ----- Grade 12 ----- Tertiary -----

3.2. When did you reach this last Grade? -----

3.3. What were the reasons for stopping school?

Peer Pressure ----- Teenage Pregnancy ----- Lack of money ----- Parental death -----

Parental Divorce ----- Family confusion ----- Lack of Proper Family ----- Failed Exams -----

4. About the prostitution occupation - what you are doing for a living:

(Please tick the answer that is relevant to you only)

4.1. Are you involved in prostitution? Yes: -----No -----

4.2. Are you a full time prostitute? Yes: -----No -----

4.3. When did you start prostitution? -----

4.4. Why did you start prostitution?

Poverty ---- Pregnancy ---- Peer Pressure ---- No Parental Care ---- Family Confusions ----

4.5. Where do you operate from?

Home ----- Streets -----Bars/Night clubs/Sheebins/Gambling Houses -----

Lodges/Hotels ----- Highways/Riverbeds/Bushes -----Port -----

4.6. How much money do you earn per day? \$10 ----- N\$50 ----- N\$100 ----- N\$200 -----
N\$300 -----N\$400 ----- N\$500 ----- N\$700 ----- N\$800 ---- N\$1,000+ ---- N\$2,000+-----

4.7. How do you operate your prostitution business?

Alone -----

In a Group of 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7----- 8 ----- 9 ----- 10 -----

More than 10 ----- 22 ----- 40 -----

4.8. Do you have a pimp? Yes----- No -----

5. About Sex Customers - the people who pay for your sexual services:

(Please tick the answer that is relevant to you only)

5.1. Customer's Gender: Male -----Female-----

5.2. Customer's Race: African ----- Coloured ----- European ----- Asian -----Other -----

5.3. Customer's Age: Young ----- Middle age ----- Elderly ----- Very old -----

5.4. Customer's Residential area: Informal Settlement ----- Location -----

City Centre ----- Low Density Area -----

- 5.5. Customer's Marital Status: Single ---- Married ---- Separated ---- Divorced -----
Widowed ----- Remarried -----
- 5.6. Customer's Educational status: Educated -----Not educated -----
- 5.7. Customer's Occupation: Trader/Salesman -----Taxi/Bus/Truck Driver -----
Civil Servant ---- Hotelier/Bar Attendant --- Diplomat -----
Law Enforcement (Police/Army\Immigration\Customs) -----
Tourists ----- Student -----
- 5.8. Customer's Economic Position: Employed ----- Unemployed ----- Self-Employed -----
Business Person ----- Student -----
- 5.9. Customer's Family Responsibilities:
Bread Winner: Yes ----- No -----
- 5.10. Customer's Dependants' Responsibilities: Yes:----- No:-----
- 5.11. Customer's reasons for seeking sex from prostitutes:
Lonely --- Nagging Wife\Unsatisfactory Sex -----Enjoys different types of sex -----
They want sex with young girls ----- Just want exotic sex ----- Homo sex -----
Lesbian Customers ----- They need sex after a long time -----
- 5.12. Customer's behaviour towards his clients (prostitutes):
Generous/Pays well ----- Kind/None Abusive ----- Cruel/Abusive -----
- 5.13. Customer's Safe Sex Practices: Always uses protection ----- Prefers naked sex -----
Sometimes refuses protection -----

- 6. About being trafficked for Exploitation (sexual, Labour or Crime) Purposes:**
(Please tick the answer that is relevant to you only)
- 6.1a. Have you ever been trafficked? Yes: ----- No: -----
- 6.1b. Do you know any friend or relative who was trafficked? Yes: ----- No: -----
- 6.2. When were you trafficked? Last week ---- Last Month ---- Last year ----Some years ago ----
- 6.3. Who trafficked you? A pimp ----- a sex customer ----- a fellow prostitute -----
A local trucker ----- a transnational trucker ----- a relative(s) -----
Neighbours ----- a job recruitment agent ----- a seamen/sailor -----
- 6.4. Were you trafficked with travel documents (passport/visa)? Yes ----- No -----
- 6.5. Who processed/organized the travel & documents? Self ----- Trafficker -----
Trafficker's agents ----- Friends -----
- 6.6. Through which border post were you trafficked? South ----- North ----- East -----
West ----- North East ----- International Airport ----- The Coast -----
- 6.7. What type of transport were you trafficked in?
Car ----- Truck ----- Bus -----Train ----- Aircraft -----Boat ----- Foot -----
- 6.8a. To where were you trafficked?
In country --Outside the country -- Within SADC -- Europe --- Asia --- Americas -----
- 6.8b. Which specific country or place have you been trafficked? -----
- 6.9. How long were you gone? Few days --- Weeks --- Months --- Years --- Still there -----
- 6.10. What risks did you face? Physical beatings/assault (violence) -----
Abandoned/marooned/homeless ----- Raped ----- Hunger -----
Sold ----- Prostituted ----- Forced to work (Labour) -----
Sickness (contracted STDs\HIV-AIDS ----- Got pregnant -----
- 6.11. Was your trafficking experience profitable? Yes ----- No -----
- 6.12. How was the income used? Personal survival ----- Group survival ----- Robbed -----

6.13 How did you return? Self ----- Customer ----- Trafficker ----- Deported -----
Government ----- Non Governmental Organisations ----- Still there -----

7. On the health of prostituted and/or trafficked persons for sex purposes:

- 7.1. Have you ever suffered any sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in your life as a
trafficked person and/or prostitute? Yes ----- No -----
- 7.2. What type of STD? Gonorrhoea (leaking) ----- Syphilis (wounds) -----
Candida (itching) ----- Bola Bola (swelling) ----- HIV/AIDS -----
- 7.3. Did you receive treatment for that STD? Yes ----- No -----
- 7.4. From which place were you treated? Clinic ----- Hospital ----- African Doctor -----
At home with vinegar & blue crystals -----

8. On the reproductive health of prostituted/trafficked persons for sex:

- 8.1a. Have you ever been pregnant? Yes ----- No -----
- 8.1b. How many times? -----
- 8.1c. From how many sex partners? -----
- 8.2a. Do you prevent pregnancy? -----
- 8.2b. How do you prevent pregnancy?
Contraceptives ----- Traditional methods ----- Abstinence ----- Other -----
- 8.2c. What type of contraceptives do you use?
The Pill ---- Condoms ---- Injection ---- Coil ---- Traditional methods ---- Oral sex -----
- 8.3a. Do you have children? Yes: ----- No: -----
- 8.3b. How many children do you have? -----
- 8.3c. How old are the children?
- 8.3c1. 1st child -----
- 8.3c2. 2nd child -----
- 8.3c3. 3rd child -----
- 8.3c4. 4th child -----
- 8.3c5. 5th child -----
- 8.3c6. 6th child -----
- 8.3c7. 7th child -----
- 8.3c8. 8th child -----
- More than 9 children -----
- 8.4a. How many children died? -----
- 8.4b. How many miscarriages or abortions did you have? -----
- 8.5. With whom do the children live? Self--Their father-- My parents--My mother -----
My father ----- My sister ----- My aunt ----- My Uncle ----- Cousin ----- Aunt -----
Girl friend --- Grandparents ---- Grandmother ---- Grandfather ---- Mother's friend -----
Father's relatives ----- Independent adults -----
- 8.6. Do you contribute towards the children's upkeep? Yes ----- No -----
- 8.7. If their father doesn't keep them, does he contribute to their upkeep? Yes - No -----
- 8.8. Do they go to School? Yes ----- No -----
- 8.9. Who pays for their school? Self ---- Their father ---- My Parents ---- My Mother -----
My father ---- My sister ---- My cousin ---- My aunt -----

My Grandparents ----- My Grandfather -----
 My grand Mother ----- My Mother's friend -----
 Father's relatives ----- Social Welfare -----SOS -----

8.10. What plans do you have for your children? None ----- Good Education -----
 Good/Better ---- Life -----None -----
 Good education -- Better than mine -----
 Don't know -----

9. Violence experienced in prostitution and sex trafficking:

9.1. Have you ever suffered any violence in your prostitution/trafficking experience?
 Yes ----- No -----

9.2. What kind of violence did you experience?
 Harassment -- Insults --- Assaults -- Beatings -- Theft -- Rape -- Hunger --- Other -----

9.3. Who inflicted the violence on you?
 Sex Customer ----- Pimp ----- friends ----- neighbours -----Police ----- Trafficker -----
 Street Kids/gangs ---- Family members ---- Boy friend ---- Mother's sex partner -----

9.4. What objects were used to violent you? Knife ----- Bottle ----- Fist ----- Feet -----
 Belt ---- Stones ---- Gun ----Ticks---- Dogs ---- Cups ---- Snakes ---- Hot Water -----

9.5a. Have you ever been arrested/jailed in your prostitution/trafficked experience?
 Yes -----No -----

9.5b. If so, what crime were you arrested and/or jailed for? Fighting -----Drunkenness -----
 Illegal migration -----
 Dozing customers with blue drops-----
 Stealing ----- murder -----

10. On drugs use in prostitution and sex trafficking

10.1. Do you use illicit drugs? Yes ----- No -----

10.2. Which types of illicit drugs? Alcohol ----- Cigarettes ----- Cocaine ----- Dagga -----

11. On Legal Protection in prostitution and sex trafficking:

11.1. Do you ever seek help when in trouble? Yes ----- No -----

11.2. From where? Police -- lawyers --- Church --- NGOs --- media --- Human Rights -----

12. Desires, wishes, aspiration and future plans of prostitutes:

12.1. Rescue/Rehabilitation/Counselling: Yes -----No -----

12.2. Return to school: Yes -----No -----

12.3. Go for skills training: Yes -----No -----

12.4. Start a business: Yes -----No -----

12.5. Work/Job: Yes -----No -----

13. Other comments: -----

14. Interview date: -----Place of Interview ----- Enumerator's Signature -----

2. Key Informants Questions

MA Research on the Trafficking of Prostitutes for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Namibia

Merab Kambamu Kiremire, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Namibia (UNAM) - Student No. 13MSOC-200647342

Introduction to the Targeted Key Informant: You have been selected as a possible key informant for this research which seeks to establish the relationship between trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes in Namibia principally because of your personal interest and/or strategic formal position in relation to the topic of this research at social, economic, political and cultural levels in terms of prevalence, extent, consequences and possible interventions, as well as prevention and protection strategies.

You are therefore, humbly requested to most kindly avail the researcher of a few minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire as best as you can. The researcher wishes to assure you that the information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality and respect.

1. Aspect of Input: Policy ----- Legislation ----- Culture ----- Political -----

2. Q: Do you think there is any relationship between prostitution and sexual exploitation in Namibia?

A: -----

3. Q: If you think so, what do you think are the pushing factors for prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation?

A: -----

4. Q: To your knowledge, what interventions exist to prevent and protect victims?

A: -----

5. Q: What do you think could be done to counter the situation?

A: -----

In gratitude, Merab Kambamu Kiremire on Cell Phone No. 081-2063336, Windhoek

3. Focus Group Discussions Meetings (FGDMs) Questions

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this focus group discussion meeting. The purpose of this discussion is to try and understand the issues that are promoting the trafficking of women and young adolescents for purposes of sexual exploitation in Namibia. Please note that sex trafficking is being considered in the wider context of human trafficking. Human trafficking means the taking of a person from one place to another for purposes other than stated and/or agreed upon. It involves coaxing, deception, coercion, fraud, abuse of power and outright abduction.

The discussion will also explore whether prostitutes are also trafficked into the sex industry outside the Namibian borders.

The following questions are meant to guide your discussion. If you have any questions, kindly feel free to ask the researcher and her assistant for guidance. Thank you again.

The questions

1. Are women and young adolescents trafficked for prostitution in and outside Namibia?
2. Who are the traffickers?
3. What physical, health and mental problems do trafficking victims encounter?
4. Is trafficking for prostitution purposes an economically viable business?
5. Do victims of trafficking enjoy any social and legal protections?
6. If trafficking of women and young adolescents for sexual exploitation purposes (prostitution) exists in Namibia, what should be done about it, and by whom?

Appendix IV: Compilation of Case Studies, Key Informants, and Focus Group Discussion Meetings information

1. 20 Case Studies (16 Females, 4 Males)

Case Study No. 1: 23-year-old Namibian Female HIV-positive TIP Victim turned Peer Educator in Walvis Bay¹⁸⁴

She is a trafficked victim survivor who has travelled extensively both within and beyond the Namibian borders, encouraging and supporting other youths living with HIV/AIDS.

Her mother got pregnant at the age of 18-years-old while in Grade 6. As her classmate who was responsible for her pregnancy denied responsibility. She subsequently dropped out of school.

¹⁸⁴While this case has become highly contentious with some researchers advancing that it is not a trafficking case since the girls requested for a lift from the truck drivers and willingly accepted an offer to proceed to Johannesburg, this research finds it a legitimately trafficking case:

1. Article 3(d)Palermo Protocol provides that as long as children as defined by the UNCRC are moved from their familiar environments to strange ones without their parental/guardian consent, it is not necessary to prove coercion and deception and intent to exploit to determine that they were trafficked;
2. The girls, at the age of 16 years, were minors who were not natural persons enough to grant their own consent;
3. The girls accepted the Johannesburg trip offer under difficult circumstances since the truck arrived in Windhoek city at night and were too scared to drop off in darkness to search for their intended destination which they did not know well;
4. While offering them a fun ride to Johannesburg, the drivers promises the girls hefty shopping and safe return to their country;
5. While the minor girls had no idea that they were going to cross their national borders into another country and as such they required valid travel documents, the drivers were well aware of this and as they approached both the Namibian exit and South African entry border posts, they concealed the girls in boxes and blankets;
6. Once past the borders, the drivers demanded for sex from the girls and while one accepted, the other was forcefully ravaged. It can therefore be safely concluded that both girls were raped since being alone in a truck with two men exposed them to great difficult to successfully refuse the sex advances as failed the second girl;
7. While some urge that the truck drivers did not gain financially from the transportation of the girls from their country to another, repeated sexual gratification in the form of forced sex amounts to sexual exploitation;
8. Once the truck arrived in Johannesburg, the men warned the girls against any attempt to go to the Police since they were illegal immigrants and went their ways, leaving the girls homeless and destitute roaming from one sex well-wisher to another, most of whom also took advantage of their vulnerability until they were rescued by Police;
9. All efforts on the part of the Police to locate the truck drivers including checks with their Trucking Company completely failed which points to the fact that the girls were too young or too inexperienced to adequately identify them (the men);
9. During the 5 months the girls were destitute in Johannesburg, they both acquired the dreaded HI Virus and now live with full-blown AIDS, with one a full-time prostitute with a sick baby, and the other resorted to lesbianism;
10. Both girls came from very difficult family situations, with one a total orphan living with an abusive aunt, and the other from a violent home where her step father battered her mother and subjected her to his peers' sex exploits in exchange for money; and
11. Had the border officials at one of the borders done their job well, they girls could have been rescued and safely returned to their homes before they were destroyed.

After the birth of her baby-boy, she left him with her mother in the village and went to Walvis Bay where she found work as a domestic worker. While in Walvis Bay, she again became pregnant from another man who also abandoned her. After delivering her second baby, a girl, she also delivered her to her mother in the village and returned back to Walvis Bay. She yet again met another man she later got married to in a Magistrate's office, a marriage she banked on to positively change her life for once and for all. So she collected her 2 children from the village to live with her in her new home. She produced another two children and, for a while, was happy with her large family until her husband turned abusive and badly mistreated her children from previous relationships. Life became so difficult that both her first son and daughter dropped out of school. While the boy was left to wander the City streets, the girl relocated to her uncle's family in Walvis Bay.

At 14-years-old, the young girl, together with her age/classmate, a total orphan who lived with an abusive aunt, decided to hitch-hike a truck-ride to a school-fashion-show in Arandis, a small town 70km from Walvis Bay. As soon as they arrived in Arandis, the truck driver dragged her behind a building, hit her with his fists, forced her against the wall and raped her, leaving her in breeding and in great pain.

At 16 years of age, the two girls run away from home and headed for the Capital City (Windhoek) to stay with her friend's Uncle, who sent them back to Walvis Bay. However, they never reached Walvis Bay. Instead they went to Swakopmund (30km from Walvis Bay) to enjoy themselves.

In September 2000, while in Swakopmund, the girls heard a radio advertisement on an upcoming modelling event in the Capital City, Windhoek. They decided to go and attend. Unfortunately, the only N\$50 (US\$5) they had on them was not enough to transport them to the city. So, once again, the girls decided to hitch-hike a truck-ride. Two truck drivers picked them up. When the truck arrived in Windhoek, the men told them that they were travelling to Johannesburg, South Africa. Promising to buy them a lot of clothes and other goodies and a safe return back home in Namibia, the men asked the girls to escort them, to which the girls excitedly obliged.

Because the girls had no travel documents, when the truck approached the **Buitepos Border Post** the men pushed them between packed bags behind the driver's seat and covered them with blankets, after which they got out of the truck to get their papers stamped. The girls could hear border officials walking around the truck but they (officers) didn't check inside and so did not see the girls. The same thing happened at the South African border.

After passing the two border posts, the men raped the girls. Once in Johannesburg, the drivers warned them not to dare escape or report to the Police as they would be arrested since they were illegally in the country without proper travel papers. They then abandoned them in the truck port and proceeded on their further journeys.

Tired, hungry and dirty, the girls approached a truck-boy who took them to his shack (house) in Greenfields near Thokoza, 25km east of Johannesburg. Two months later when the man tired of them, he demanded sex in return for his food and accommodation. When the girls refused he teased them, asking them how they expected to be fed and accommodated for nothing. They told him they had already been multi-raped and were sick. He just laughed and insisted they were

well enough for sex, that to him, they looked healthy, and that the only thing that could have gone wrong was that they could be pregnant. He too raped them without condoms.

A few days later, the man said he couldn't keep two girls at the same time and chased the one who was more sick than the other. Out in the streets, the chased girl met another young man, and because he seemed gentle and kind, she narrated her story to him, after which he took her to his family. Although one of his family members was a female police officer, she too was too scared to deal with a case of two young foreign girls illegally in the country.

At the verge of death, the girl crawled to a Police station where she reported herself and her friend. The Police went and collected her friend and took them to a safe house. Later the girls informed the Police they had wounds in their private parts and were taken to a hospital at Boksberg where they were found with STIs and treated. But while her friend's health improved, hers deteriorated. Her legs were so swollen that she couldn't walk. She was taken back to the hospital and found to be HIV-positive and hospitalized. Although she was terribly devastated and thought she would soon die in a foreign country without any of her family members knowing where she was buried, after a month's treatment, her health improved and was eventually discharged and returned to the safety house. In the meantime, the South Africa Police and Home Affairs Ministry prepared temporary travel documents and air tickets and deported the two girls back to Namibia.

Her uncle and bother met her at Walvis Bay Airport and took her to her mother's house. Her friend was taken to her family members too. But both of them never told their families the details of their story.

However, a few weeks later, she got so sick that after being hospitalized and diagnosed with TB, she was put on TB treatment. Unfortunately, because she believed that AIDS was going to kill her anyway, she didn't want to waste medicines and kept skipping the TB drugs. One day one kind Nurse told her that suffering from AIDS did not mean the end of the World and encouraged her to take her medicines. Eventually, she opened up to the Nurse and shared her whole story and how she had gotten AIDS while in South Africa. The Nurse arranged for her to go to New Start Centre at the Walvis Bay Multipurpose Centre for counselling, where she was lucky to join a group of other young people living with HIV/AIDS involved in school-based HIV prevention programmes. Instead of feeling hopeless, she began to feel useful to her fellow youth, her country and her people. Since then she spends most of her time encouraging young HIV-positive people not to see themselves as having reached the end of their life's road but as commencing a different life style, although tough.

Unfortunately, her friend has not been as lucky, perhaps, because as a total orphan, she had far less family to fall back on. She is not only HIV-positive, but homeless, roaming the streets, buried in alcohol, drugs and prostitution. To crown it all, last year she delivered an HIV-positive baby who is perpetually sick and needs a lot of help but still lives in denial.

Because this young woman believes her situation is one whose consequences are painfully life-changing and irreversible, she appeals to society as a whole, particularly her country's leaders, to take issues of youths, family confusion, family-based gender violence and human trafficking for exploitation purposes very seriously and to work to ensure that fewer young people have occasion to experience her type of life. She points out, for instances that girls who register at the Counselling Centre suffer a lot of ridicule and stigma from family and friends alike. She cites

the fact that she herself attempted suicide several times and quickly progressed into full blown AIDS. And although the ARV therapy has dramatically improved her health, she and her friend still blame their parents and government for their unfortunate circumstances.

Case Study No. 2: 32-Year-old Namibian Female Cleaner at one of Windhoek's Educational Institutions, who claims her 17-year-old sister was trafficked to the UK¹⁸⁵

She comes from Khorixas, and together with her 17-year-old sister, are the only surviving members of her parents' family. Their mother's death when she was still only 16-years-old left her a total orphan and household head with the responsibility of raising-up her one-year-old sister single-handedly.

When the task of raising a baby on her own became too much for her, she resorted to finding a boyfriend who moved in with her. At first the young man was helpful as he provided the much needed moral and financial support. They produced 3 children, a son now 16-years-old, and 2 daughters aged 11 and 9 years respectively.

Unfortunately, her boyfriend took to too much alcohol and promiscuity, so they split and the man went off with another woman. Although he occasionally sent money for the maintenance of the 3 children, she soon found the burden of raising such a large family single-handedly unbearable and decided get yet another man to lessen her burden. After producing another son (now 4-years-old), the man became a drunkard and left her too.

¹⁸⁵ Direct interview with the researcher

Her sister was only 14-years-old when she became pregnant. After delivering a baby boy, she went to live in Khorixa where she stayed for 3 years until, abruptly, she returned to Windhoek and told her (elder sister) that two local people, a man and a woman from Katutura, wanted to take her to London to work in the 'pictures'. They made all the travel arrangements including a passport and air tickets. On 26th May 2007 her sister, together with a 16-year-old female friend and 2 18 and 19 old male youths left for London.

She is deeply worried about her 'baby-sister' because whereas the young girl phones regularly and assures her she is alright, she neither mentions the kind of jobs they are doing, nor when they will come back.

What is even more disturbing is the fact that while her sister can seemingly afford to make regular telephone calls from 'London' to Namibia, she never sends any money to support her kid. Often times, she feels confused because she has not been able to find out who those people who took her sister to London are and wonders whether her sister is indeed safe.

As the researcher talked to this frail worried woman, she couldn't but help sharing her concerns, which echo Deputy Chief of the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia, Mr. Pieper A.W. Campbell, who argued the audience of an Anti-Trafficking in Persons concert in Phnom Penh's Olympic Stadium 'to be suspicious of job offers that seemed too good to be true', and the USAID's Cambodia Mission Director Erin Soto who 'warned about the dangers of trafficking in persons'.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁶Hal Lipper. 'Anti-Trafficking Concerts Rock Crowds in Cambodia.' USAID Frontlines, February 2009. Thailand.

In the meantime, the responsibility of caring for 5 children, the last one of whom is sickly, has taken its toll on the poor woman. She often gets sick herself and is hospitalized. She is depressed, cries a lot and believes she will die within a matter of 3-years' time.¹⁸⁷

Case Study No. 3: 21-year-old South African Male gay prostitute/40-member street Gang-leader in Walvis Bay¹⁸⁸

Both his parents are dead, his father in South Africa when he was only 3-years-old, and his mother 3 years ago. At 15 years old he and his mother run away from his mother's new but abusive husband and came to Walvis Bay. They left his 3 siblings, one older brother, 1 younger sister and 1 younger step-sister in South Africa. By the time his mother died, they lived alone together. He buried her without any of their relatives present.

He currently lives in a brothel-house where he leads a well known 40-street-gang. He has a regular Spanish gay seaman sex customer but has recently produced a baby with a street-girl-friend. He has no plan for his baby because he says nobody had any plans for him when he was a kid and that his street child will have to survive the way he has so far survived. He deeply regrets living alone without any family members and desperately wishes to see his siblings. He believes he survives only because he is a very strong guy.

He boasts that he and his street gang control Walvis Bay city-centre and Port area and nobody can dare get anywhere near them be it law enforcement agencies or any other authorities. Because of his gang's terror, Walvis Bay city centre was visibly deserted by 1730 hours.

¹⁸⁷Direct interview by the researcher on 6 June 2007

¹⁸⁸Direct interviews in the group dwelling place at night and during the day outside a gambling house in the City Centre

However, he cites an occasion when his 40-member street-gang ambushed and assaulted him almost to death for bullying them.

When this researcher returned to Walvis Bay six months later, she noticed that a community neighbourhood-watch had been formed to control the group's activities among others.

Case Study No. 4: 25-year-old Namibian Female HIV-positive Prostitute in Daily Informal Settlement, Katima Mulilo¹⁸⁹

Her mother worked as a street cleaner before she died from AIDS in 2004, leaving 5 children all fathered by different men. Her father also died from AIDS in 2006. She subsequently dropped out of school at the age of 17-years and became the sole breadwinner for her four siblings, a 15-year-old brother in Grade 9, and 3 sisters. One 23 year-old sister has since completed school and is waiting to go to university. The 17-year-old one is in Grade 10, while the youngest sister born in 1998 is now in Grade 2.

As her mother's first born child, when her mother was bed ridden and in and out of hospital, she took the heavy responsibility of caring for her as well as her siblings. Because there was no money for food and medicines, she got a boyfriend, a Katima Mulilo-Windhoek combi-driver who regularly gave her money. However, as soon as she became pregnant, he deserted her. Now, apart from her already large family, she had a daughter to look after. The little girl, who is fortunately HIV-negative, is now 7-years-old in Grade 2.

In 2003 she took to prostitution as a full time occupation. In 2005 she fell sick and tested HIV-positive. A year ago, she almost died from a pregnancy miscarriage which left her hospitalized for almost a year. She is now surviving on ARVs which she finds too strong and which require

¹⁸⁹Direct interview in the Informal Settlement at 1600 hours

her to eat a lot of good food she doesn't have. Her HIV-positive status also requires her to abstain from sex if she wants to live longer. Unfortunately, as much as she understands these consequences, since there is nobody else to help her, she simultaneously finds it very difficult to conform as she is forced to go hunting for men in the streets and bars for money to buy food for herself, her siblings and her kid.

Because she no longer has the energy to hunt for enough money to support all her dependants, in October (2008) she approached the Women and Child Protection Unit (WCPU) with a view to getting her brother's father, an employee of one of the Nation's parastatal companies to contribute towards his son's up-keep. But because the big man has another family, he wasn't keen for his wife to know about the existence of her son.

She now operates in a 25-street-hunting group, all of whom are HIV-positive. An NGO organizes workshops to teach them how to counsel other 'street hunters' to protect themselves from getting HIV by using condoms. But she and her friends are perturbed that the people who talk to them about HIV don't care to help them with incomes or skills to help them to stop prostituting in the streets.

Apart from being HIV-positive, she now has a heart disease. When she looks at her kid and siblings, she doesn't know what to do. A month ago, she collapsed and badly hurt her left arm. At the time of this interview the Municipality had cut off water supply from their house because she had not paid the bills. She found this a major problem. Although she doesn't have enough power to go out hunting for men, she is nevertheless left without any other option but to go. And yet she is not alone. Her best friend, who is also a full-blown AIDS patient, is currently bedridden. Her children have no food.

She says if she had money to pay for a stall at the Market, she would start a business and make money the clean-way plaiting hair. But the Municipality charges N\$250 per month for each market stall, which she can't afford because whatever little money she daily gets from men disappears in food and other house care. She saves nothing. She wishes the Government could help give her a loan.

Death haunts her every single day of her life, whether in the streets, bars or night clubs because she doesn't know what will happen to her child and siblings. Although both her kid and siblings are all HIV-negative, which in itself is a good motivation for her to remain alive, she is nonetheless well aware that such is not going to happen. She already feels tired and wasted.

She be-mourns the fact that despite prostitution being illegal in Namibia, the number of sugar daddies in Katima Mulilo and the number of young prostitutes are always growing. Every day she sees trucks picking up young girls and leaving. She observes that when truck drivers offer to take such girls to Windhoek, Angola, the Coast and to South Africa, they can't refuse because all they want is money to survive on. What is even worse, she says, is that a lot of the girls jumping on trucks are foreigners, especially from Zambia and Zimbabwe, who pose as local girls, and concludes, 'They will soon get sick and die; That is the end of the game; of this story!¹⁹⁰

Case Study No. 5: 28-year-old Zimbabwean Female Prostitute in Katima Mulilo a Police Officer took to Swakopmund and deserted her there with her baby¹⁹¹

¹⁹⁰This girl served as my guide in Katima Mulilo streets. She offered to lead me to a Petrol Station to observe trucks packing to fill fuel and truck drivers taking young girls with them. When we arrived there, she spotted a hefty truck driver she believed was looking for prostitutes. She immediately left and went off with the man. She didn't care about why we had come there.

¹⁹¹ Direct interview with her group in an informal settlement at 1600hours

She says her friends and neighbours don't know she is a foreigner. Her parents' sickness from AIDS and subsequent death in 2003 and 2004 respectively left her and her 12 siblings without anybody to look after them. Nine of her siblings have since died.

She subsequently failed Grade 10, dropped out of school and went to live with her old grandfather, a situation which turned out too difficult since he had no means of caring for her. It was then that a Police officer took her to Swakopmund. When he lost his job and deserted her leaving her with a tiny baby and nowhere to go, she joined some girls in the streets and commenced her prostitution career.

But life in the city soon became dangerous after her 2 street friends were suspected of murdering a tourist sex customer. So she decided to run away with her baby and return to Katima Mulilo which, despite heavy competition between local and foreign prostitutes, she finds quieter and safer. However, she retorts that life in Katima Mulilo can be tough too. A week earlier, one of her sex customers, a soldier, who was heavily intoxicated, beat her so severely that she became unconscious. He left without paying her for her services, an occurrence which is quite common.

And while, on the surface she looks healthy, inside she is a very sick person. When she suffered from a bout of TB in 1999 and was hospitalized, she tested HIV-positive. All members of her group, 25, are HIV-positive. They receive free condoms from one NGO and ARVs at the Hospital. But they find the NGO programmes hopeless because although they are given condoms and told how to use them, they are not assisted with how to stop their dangerous life.

She has been pregnant 2 times. Her first child, a baby- boy, died when it was only 3-months-old. Her daughter, who is HIV-negative, is now two and half years-old.

She says truck drivers are their best customers. They pay them in American Dollars. The only problem is that truck drivers also take so many girls who never return. She invited this researcher to go to one Petrol Station to see for herself what she refers to as, 'very many young girls going into trucks without anybody making an effort to do anything about it'.

She reiterates that what she witnessed in Swakopmund scared her a great deal. She wishes she could find a job and work and support her child so that she can grow up to be somebody better than herself.

Case Study No. 6: 28-year-old Namibian Female HIV-Positive Prostitute in Katima Mulilo, who despite her situation, talks a lot of sensible things.¹⁹²

Both her parents are dead, her father in 2000, and mother in 2001. She had only 4 male siblings, but they all died. She produced 2 children, a son who died at the age of 2 years, and a 7-year-old daughter who has tested HIV-negative.

She attributes her Grade 12 examinations failure and subsequent prostitution in 2005 and HIV status to lack of financial support. Although she has not yet suffered any violence in her prostitution career, she is HIV-positive.

She says trafficking of young prostitutes is rife in Katima Mulilo. Truck drivers deceive the girls, most of whom are teenage foreigners posing as locals searching for sex customers at a popular petrol station, and take them with them to Windhoek, Oshikago and South Africa. They never return except that new ones arrive all the time.

¹⁹²Direct interview with the researcher

She believes the men in her life are just confused. She had a boyfriend who convinced her he wanted to stay with her for ever but later when she discovered he had a wife and children, he immediately ran away. She attributes their confusion to the fact that working men are so few compared to women. The result is that unemployed women chase after men with incomes for money and survival, while men who are not working are just chasing working women to get money from them to drink. She believes that is why domestic and street violence are rampant and so many men are raping and killing women and kids.

She is very critical about NGOs projects where people just talk but have nothing to offer to solve the girls' problems. She scornfully argues that prostitutes know more about diseases such as HIV and AIDS, STDs, and unwanted pregnancies than those NGOs behaviour change educators who pay them \$50 to attend a day's workshop after which they send them out armed with words only to change their friend's sex behaviour. After all, these diseases are part and parcel of prostitution.

She believes that with her Grade 12 education, she is capable of earning her life decently if only she could find work but that all her efforts to find work had failed. She wishes Government could create enough jobs to save prostitutes the pain they suffer in the streets.

Case Study No.7: She is a 27-year-old Namibian Female Prostitute, HIV-Positive, in Dairy Informal Settlement Katima Mulilo.¹⁹³

She is the first born of 5 siblings whose parents still live in their village. Although she completed Grade 12, her mere pass could neither lead her to higher education nor a job. In 2005 she hit the

¹⁹³Direct interview with the researcher

streets and bars in search of money to support her large village family. She has a one and half year old baby girl and is HIV-positive, living on ARVs.

Recently, while in a bar at night, one of her sex customers physically assaulted her so badly that she passed out and was rushed to hospital. Upon regaining her consciousness the following day she found her head and face were stitched and bandaged. Her assailant was subsequently arrested and charged in Court.

She says because of truck drivers, Katima Mulilo has only old prostitutes as young ones are constantly leaving for Windhoek and border towns. Most of them come from neighbouring countries of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Congo DRC, stay in lodges with truck drivers and business men until they proceed further south. She thinks it is a very big problem which is mainly caused by lack of sufficient colleges and jobs for young people both in Namibia and its neighbouring countries. It is a lot of suffering, she says. She wishes she could find a job and live a better and safer life and care for her child.

Case Study No. 8: 31-year-old hardcore Female Prostitute who is HIV+ and, together with her sister, lives in Kronlein Location, in Keetmanshop. She has previously operated in Windhoek North), Walvis Bay, Oshikango and Cape Town¹⁹⁴

She is a mother of 3 school-going boys aged 13, 12 and 10 years. She started prostitution at the age of 15 years after she dropped out of school due to a teenage pregnancy. She had followed her elder sister who had also been a victim of teenage pregnancy and was in streets earning money to support her baby and their blind mother. Their father had died before they started school.

¹⁹⁴Direct Interview with the researcher

Immediately after she delivered her first son, she left the baby with her elder sister and her blind mother and accompanied one of her truck driver sex customers to Windhoek. He never brought her back to Keetmanshoop.

She had eventually returned back to Keetmanshoop to deliver her second son, who she also left with her elder sister and blind mother and accompanied yet another truck driver to Walvis Bay. Once in Walvis Bay, she had joined fellow prostitutes from her ethnic group in a popular night club until she became pregnant again and decided to take a ride with another truck driver back to Keetmanshoop.

It was when she went to an antenatal clinic that she was devastated to discover that she was HIV-positive. After delivering her 3rd son, she had become so ill that she had become bed ridden for over 2-years and only survived because her elder sister had continued to bring money home. When her health improved, she went on ARVs. She has since operated in Cape Town and Oshikango.

These days, she limits her prostitution operations to Keetmanshoop because her truck driver clients are reluctant to take her with them in case she gets sick on them. More than anything, she is scared she might die away from home and have nobody to return her body for burial.

She is very worried about the future of her children whom she says she might not live long enough to see grow up. She wishes they could finish school and get jobs and stand on their own feet. She highly regrets the life she has lived and blames those who introduced her to it (her sister and her friends and their truck driver customers). She told the researchers that whenever she, her sister (who also has 3 children), and their cousin (mother of 1 8-year-old boy) don't

manage to get money from their street sex customers, they sell their clothes to buy food for their kids. The whole time this woman was talking to this researcher, she was crying. The morning following the interview, this prostitute, together with her cousin brought this researcher a hand-written appeal for assistance as follows:

‘Dear mother, I want to ask you please, to help me to buy for me some things like bread, macaroni, soup, meat or chicken, sugar and tea because I really don’t have anything to give my children and for me myself. Why I have written this letter is because I am too shy to ask you directly. Please my mother, help! From Bella’

Case Study No. 9: 26-year-old Zimbabwean Female Prostitute TIP Victim in a Night Club along Independence Avenue in Windhoek¹⁹⁵

This Zimbabwean street prostitute, who, together with her six colleagues, lives in a Guest Lodge in a Windhoek suburb, says she was abused at her step-brother’s house where her married sister took her to live after the death of both their parents. She subsequently failed her Grade 10 examinations and dropped out of school.

At 17-years of age, she run away and joined friends in the streets who convinced her she could independently earn her own money standing in the streets from where customers could pay her well. At first she was scared and would run away when customers approached her and pretend to her friends that she had not found any customers (guys). But later, regular cash in her hands changed the whole scene. She became comfortable with her situation. She says when one gets used to it, one doesn’t fear anymore; that money takes away the fear and trauma.

¹⁹⁵Direct interview with the researcher

In 2004 the same prostitute who had introduced her to prostitution in Zimbabwe but was now operating in Namibia invited her to join her. She told her that prostitution was much more profitable in Windhoek than in Harare. So she got a passport and travelled to Namibia by bus and joined her friend.

Contrary to her friend's enticing stories, when she arrived in Windhoek, she found the situation very different. For instance whereas in Harare, she and her friends rented a room and shared the rent bill, and their landlord would wait if they didn't have ready cash, in Windhoek such a thing was not possible. So, she and her 7 friends live in a lodge where they pay N\$150 per night for a shared room. That means that every day she must go back to the lodge with N\$75 cash to pay for her room otherwise she has no accommodation for that night. If she wants to eat food, she must ensure she earns extra money on top of the N\$75. Many times they eat only 1 meal a day.

Whereas it would be cheaper to rent a shared room in some residential area, house owners can't accept their life styles, where they sometimes bring 4/5 customers a night, dress in provocative ways in shorts and mini dresses and return home at 1000hours in the morning the following day. When neighbours see a lot of such strange movements they talk too much. On the contrary, in a lodge, as long as they pay their daily accommodation bills, the owners don't ask any questions as to when they come back and with whom they are with.

But as a foreigner she finds she is constantly discriminated against, hated, despised and abused even in the streets. She alleges that police officers often-times take them into bushes where they rape and rob their money. One particular officer who is well known to her group regularly

comes to the night club they patronize, harasses them out and forces them to have anal sex with him without protection.

Asked about sex trafficking, she responds that she believes she was herself trafficked to Namibia because her friend who invited her promised her things that were not correct.

She narrated her brief encounter with an international drug dealer:

‘In December 2007 I was approached by a Tanzanian drug dealer who wanted to take me to Thailand where he said I would make much more money than I was making in Windhoek. But because I had heard about things drug dealers do to the girls they take to South Africa and Thailand, I asked the man if I would be allowed to keep my passport myself. When he responded that he would himself keep my passport, I was sceptical. I didn’t want to suffer the way my Zambian friend who drug dealers took to Cape Town, hooked to heroin and cocaine in an all-white brothel, and threw her on the street when she became too sick to earn them money. By the time she returned back to Namibia, she was in a shockingly sick and a wasted state. I still see the guy who attempted to recruit her in the streets approaching other ‘bitches’.

She says her family doesn’t know what she is doing in Namibia. And whereas she dreads her life on ‘foreign streets’, she dare not go back to Zimbabwe to be a burden on other people. In fact often times, she feels that life is not so bad after all as she lives an independent life and has only herself to worry about. So, she can’t go back home to become a dependant. She is no longer a kid. She has to make the best of her life:

“You get used to it - you realize that that is your particular situation - you can’t back out - you can’t change it, you keep going until the end’. Most of the guys we take back to the

lodge with us are in the 1st lane - they live very dangerous lives as drug dealers. Although I have friends, as a foreigner, I am always aware that if things go wrong, I am all alone. Ours is a lonely business.'

As for the future, she says she has none at all as she stopped planning a long time ago, and only lives each day as it comes:

'I have no plans, none at all. I long stopped planning. I only live each day as it comes. Destitution has become my daily routine and prostitution is my destiny. That is what I came here to do. But if an opportunity presented itself I would very much wish to go back to school, and reclaim my education. People call me a bitch. That means that they think I no longer have a head. I hate it because I believe my head is still balanced.

Between sobs, she says she used to blame her family members, especially her elder sister for sending her to her step-brother instead of looking after her herself. But she has 'long let go of blaming others', she concludes as she wipes her tears off her face.

Asked what she would say to her State President if she had an opportunity to meet him, she states:

'I would not blame the President, but I would only ask him to please help the girls in the streets'.

One month after the researcher's interview with this prostitute, she (the researcher) received the following SMS message:

‘Hello sister, I ask that you pray for me as I embark on a job-seeking journey to South Africa. Be blessed’.¹⁹⁶

All efforts to reach her on her cell phone by both telephoning and sms messages proved futile. The researcher was unable to establish whether she had actually left for South Africa; whether the decision to do so was on her own accord; and whether she had left alone; or she had eventually given in to her earlier recruiters.

Case Study No. 10: 26-year-old Luderitz-based South African Male Ex-jail Convicted Prisoner turned a Prostitution Pimp¹⁹⁷

He finished Grade 12 but failed his examinations. His South African parents brought him to Luderitz 15-years-ago, at the age of 11-years. Then both of them died and were buried in Luderitz leaving 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys living in South Africa and he in Luderitz.

After working in a Diamond Mine in Luderitz for 5 years, he was accused of stealing diamonds, arrested, thrown in jail, and acquitted for lack of adequate evidence following 3 years of trial in Court. After his acquittal, he started a butchery business, but due to the stigma labelled on a thief and a jailbird, it failed;

‘That is when I turned to pimping prostitutes for a living’ he says. ‘That is how I earn my living. I need money and sex. Prostitutes give me both.’

He is bitter at his accusers, who he blames for destroyed his life and deeply regrets that if he had known that he would be falsely accused, all those years he worked in the Diamond Mine he

¹⁹⁶ Received at 1:36:55 on 24-02-2009

¹⁹⁷ Direct interview with the researcher

would have actually stolen diamonds, hidden them, been jailed for correct reasons, served his sentence and come out of prison to return to his diamonds and be wealthy.

Although he has a 2-months-old-baby with a street prostitute, apart from the group of prostitutes he pimps, he has no friends at all. He says that ‘the most difficult thing he has experienced in his life apart from jail is his foreignness. Although he has a passport he still does not have citizenship. He desperately wishes he could be a respectable businessman either in Namibia or South Africa. Whenever he is depressed, he always takes his frustrations to his parents’ graves in the grave-yard where he pours out his sadness in tears.

Case Study No. 11: 22-year-old Luderitz Namibian Male (Dry Queen) Prostitute¹⁹⁸

He is a male gay prostitute, who behaves, looks and dresses like a female prostitute with g-strings and make-up when he goes to bars and night clubs

Both his parents died when he was a small boy and dropped out of school in Grade 11 in 2001. Although he grew up with only his grandmother, without any other child around the home, he states that he knew very early in his life that something was wrong, that he was not straight because he felt attracted to males rather than to females.

He says that there are 20 gay male prostitutes (dry queens) in Luderitz, all of whom except 1 come from Windhoek and Keetmashoop. Their only job is to sell sex as gayism in Ludertiz is highly prostituted. He services tourists, fishermen, seamen (sailors) and gold miners. Apart from seeing prostitutes constantly arrive and leave Luderitz mainly by trucks, he knows nothing about sex trafficking.

¹⁹⁸Direct interview with the researcher

Case Study No. 12: 30-year-old Windhoek-based Cameroonian Female TIP Victim Prostitute¹⁹⁹

After failing her Grade 12 examinations in her country, her boyfriend asked her to accompany him, together with his 3 friends, to take West African fabrics to Namibia where they were highly on demand and profitable.

Because she trusted him, she agreed. They travelled through the Central Republic of Congo (CRC) and Angola to Namibia. Two days after their arrival in Windhoek, he told her to dress in a short dress and escort them to a night club where he started introducing her to strangers as ‘available for cash’.

When she protested, he asked her how she thought she was going to eat and sleep in a lodge for nothing. She was told her job was to ensure she brought enough money every day to pay for the whole group’s food and lodging. She serves 5 customers, mainly tourists, and nets a daily income of N\$2000. When she returns, usually late at night, she hands the cash to her ‘boyfriend’.

One morning last year, she was told that the group was going back to Angola. That is when she saw that her male ‘business colleagues’ were dealing in stones and drugs. In addition to the daily cash, she provides the men with ready sex. All of them are illegally in the countries they travel.

Case Study No. 13: 22-year-old Zambian Female HIV-Positive TIP Victim Prostitute in a brothel-like lodge in Windhoek.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁹This woman was staying in a Windhoek North lodge together with the stone-dealers she was earning money for. Police bust this lodge a few days after the researcher interviewed her. It has been closed since.

²⁰⁰She claims the leader of her group tricked and brought her to Namibia to earn money for her as she is now too old for the prostitution trade. Police bust this lodge a few days after this interview.

22-year-old 'D' comes from an elite background, with a decent family back home in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. But in 1999 she rebelled against her parents, dropped out of Grade 7, and followed street prostitutes in her home town. She now realizes her mistake but can't go back to her family because both her parents have since died.

She had no idea where Namibia was until Mama 'M' convinced her to come with her. They travelled by an inter-regional bus from Victoria Falls via Katima Mulilo to Windhoek. Now she operates in a group of 20 foreign prostitutes, all of whom live in a lodge close to the City Centre. She serves a minimum of 5 customers for an average N\$2000 per night which, like her colleagues, she hands to their group leader, who then decides how to use it, mainly on their N\$75 each daily accommodation each, food, clothing, cosmetics, alcohol and drugs and transport.

'D' claims a customer picked her from the night club near one of Windhoek's leading hotels, drove her on BI High Way to a farm towards Okahanja, where he cut off her clothes and knee-boots, pointed a gun at her, pushed a hummer into her private parts, raped her without a condom while insinuating to her that he knew it wasn't her who gave him HIV but anyway he was sorry for her because he was going to kill her. Then in a rage, she claims, he threw her out of his house naked. She ran in darkness towards the road. Near a police check point, she got a lift from a truck which dropped her back in Windhoek. She refers to her life as a nightmare and repeatedly yells about 'suffering a great deal':

'I don't know why God doesn't see me. One abortion almost killed me and now I am HIV-positive. I am always arrested and harassed because most of the time, I am illegally in the country. I am always being deported. I have been deported from Botswana and Namibia

several times. But every time I am deported, I return to Zambia and get a new passport. Mama 'M' has many connections!

Case Study No. 14: 32-year-old Rwandese Female TIP Victim Prostitute who couriers drugs in a settlement in Oshakati²⁰¹

This is a very guarded, pretty and sophisticated woman. She says she doesn't know her father but her mother died in the 1994 Rwandese genocide. She completed Grade 12 and did computer and HIV/AIDS Counselling courses in Uganda. She travelled from Uganda via Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia by trucks to Namibia. She was also a drug courier. In 2005 her bosses took her to Angola for 2 months. In 2001 she had an abortion. She is mysterious and says, '**I can't explain much because of my presence**'.

Case Study No. 15: 17-year-old Pregnant Female Prostitute in a Group of 8 Teenage Prostitutes in a Bar/Night Club in Oshikango²⁰²

In 2006, this Grade 9-school-drop-out, whose divorced parents are both jobless, together with her 7 friends, jumped on a truck at Noorwerder and headed north along B1 highway. They had heard so much about how if they reached Windhoek, they would get jobs and live independent lives. On the way, the driver was very kind. He bought chips, chicken and cool drinks for the whole group. They were happy to be on the move and the driver seemed happy to be with them.

In Oshikango, the driver introduced them to his friends. That is when he demanded sex from her and used her together with one of her coloured friends. The following morning he proceeded on his journey, leaving them behind. They later understood that he had gone to Luanda in Angola.

²⁰¹Direct interview with the researcher on 17 July 2007 at 1500 hours

²⁰²Direct interview with the researcher on 30.4.2007 at 1900 hours

In the one year she and her friends stayed in Oshakango, they saw many of their colleagues go on trucks to Lubango and Luanda in Angola. If any of them returned, they always told stories of abuse and harassment:

‘A trucker took one of my friends to Luanda with a promise to marry her. But she soon found out that he already had a wife in Luanda. He put her in a Lodge. The wife heard about it and came to the lodge. She beat her up. The girl run into the streets, where she sold her body and got money to return to Oshikango. That is very common to us.’

When the researcher met her, she was 7 months pregnant. She was highly confused and desperately wanted to go back to her family but was afraid to phone her mother and tell her she was prostituting in Oshikango. So the researcher got her mother’s telephone number and phoned her. The Mother was greatly shocked that her daughter was as far as close to Angola and that she was expecting a baby. The researcher appealed to her not to be angry with her daughter but to come and help her. The researcher later learnt that her mother, accompanied by her younger brother (the girl’s uncle) had subsequently travelled to Oshikango and fetched the young girl.

Case Study No. 16: 24-Year-old South African Female Street Prostitute (*Kinetic Energy*) with a group of 12 Teenage girls in a Walvis Bay Night Club²⁰³

Kinetic Energy - This aggressive prostitute who humorously refers to herself as ‘kinetic energy’ claims her maternal aunt brought her from South Africa to live with her in Namibia after her parents divorced and her mother was going through a traumatic situation. After persistent violent quarrels with her aunt, she dropped out of Grade 9 at school and joined street prostitutes.

²⁰³Direct interview with the researcher on 6 April 2007 at 2300 hours

Sex Tourism - She operates in Walvis Bay prostitution spots with a group of 12 teenage prostitutes. She also claims she operates in tourism ranches where she joins black and white South African prostitutes who are usually flown in by tour operators to service tourists.

Poverty and unemployment - She argues that the working population in Namibia is so low that many people are left to suffer. She laments that rather than supporting the girls in the streets, 'bosses just fuck them'. She believes that if leaders 'stood with poor people, things would be fine' and questions, 'if your leaders can't stand with you, what can you do?'

Trafficking Experience - While she has not been trafficked herself, she states that she knows many of her friends who have been taken out of Namibia by their customers and one job recruitment agency.

Prostitution, Sex trafficking and Organized Crime - She knows prostitutes who seamen have taken on vessels without documents to ferry drugs from Bolivia, Brazil and Argentine. When the large fishing vessels return to Walvis Bay Harbour, and the prostitutes have delivered the drugs, small boats meet the large vessels and exchange fishing rods that have been stuffed with drugs and bring them back to the Port.

Violence - She has suffered a lot of violence in the streets and night spots which she never reports to the police since she maintains that it would be very stupid of her to report to 'the Police who themselves abuse' them. She asserts that prostitutes in the streets 'are alone' and that nobody cares about them. Street gang boys often steal from her but since it is impossible for her

to pursue a group of boys in the dark single-handedly, she is usually grateful to be able to remain physically safe and continues her life.²⁰⁴

Case Study No. 17: 40-Year-old Walvis-based HIV-positive female brothel-operator/pimp still mourning the death of her 16-year-old son from a drug overdose.²⁰⁵

When the researcher first met this HIV-positive 40-year old coloured brothel operator/prostitution pimp a year earlier in April 2006, she was living with a 29-year-old black man. They together, commanded over 20, 12-20-year-old young prostitutes (15 girls, 5 boys) they recruited and provided accommodation in a rented brothel house in return for a mandatory daily income of N\$500 each.

Own kids - They included her 16-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son whose fathers she didn't know. The group spent their day-hours drinking alcohol and taking hard drugs. Their nights were spent in Walvis Bay night spots where they targeted sailors, fishermen, truck drivers and tourists.

Violence/Drugs - While she visibly displayed the comforts of extravagant living which she had enjoyed for well over 20 years, her leg was still in a plaster from fractured bone she had sustained from street violence. She was completely heart-broken, mourning the death of her only son from cocaine over-dose a few weeks earlier without any sympathy from either her fellow prostitutes in the area or the group she pimped. She wished her only remaining daughter (also prostituting) a better life.

²⁰⁴Efforts to locate this woman for a further interview two days after the researcher and her companions met her failed as she, together with her group, were alleged to have been picked up and taken to a tourism game ranch to service tourists.

²⁰⁵Direct interview with the researcher on 3 April 2007 at 1400 hours

Trafficking - While she doesn't herself traffick any of the girls and boys she pimps out of Namibia, she recruits them from anywhere within Namibia through any means, including deceit and deception. However, one of her closest friends, working with some of their seamen customers, regularly recruits and sends prostitutes below 25-years-old to Europe. She doesn't know what type of travel documents her friend uses and where she gets them from.

**Case Study No. 18: 36-year-old Windhoek-based full-blown-AIDS female patient
Prostitutes who claims she was trafficked to South Africa for FIFA
2010 World Cup Prostitution²⁰⁶**

This researcher found her sick in bed in her house in Katutura. Her 3 year-old daughter, together with other little daughters of prostitutes who either share this little house or other shacks nearby, were played around the bed. Her 8-year-old school-going son stood at the door, watching the world around him go-by. Although she was still too sick to stand, she believed she had gone over the worst. The last 5 months in hospital since her return from Johannesburg had been hell as there was a time when she had given up hope and was ready to die.

She claims that in August 2008, she and her 3 friends were approached by 3 gay persons, a woman and 2 men who bought them air tickets and gave them money to go to a Conference in Cape Town but ended in a brothel teaching European prostitutes African sex in readiness for the 2010 FIFA WC games. When their visas expired, they were returned back to Windhoek to renew them and then were taken to another brothel in Johannesburg for the same purpose. When she fell very sick a few weeks later, the brothel owner had thrown her on the streets. Some well-wishers had taken her to hospital where she had stayed until she was able to travel back home. She is now on ARVs while her two friends are still in South Africa. Three of her other friends

²⁰⁶Direct interview with the researcher in Windhoek on the afternoon of 28 April 2009

had been taken to Iceland brothels by seamen, while 4 teenager girls had been taken to what she refers to as ‘pictures’ in London’.

She attributes their common predicament to lack of money, education, jobs and proper families. She wishes that the Council of Churches (CCN) and a Catholic project that supports prostitutes in Windhoek could be stronger and take all prostitutes from the streets. She also hopes that Government will one day stop young people from dropping-out-of-school, create jobs for them and support all poor families.

Case Study No. 19: 20-year-old Angolan male brought as stowaways by Angolan sailors on an Angolan vessel that got marooned and abandoned in Walvis Bay Port

He believes, he, together with 19 other colleagues were trafficked by Angolan Sailors who brought them as stowaways on an Angolan Vessel that was illegally in Namibian waters and was marooned in Walvis Bay Port. Apart from the drugs they had, they were abandoned with no travel documents, no money, no food and nowhere to live. They joined the street boys in Walvis Bay streets and resorted to living in a brothel-like house with teenage prostitutes selling drugs and operating as prostitutes’ pimps. He had no idea if he would ever return to Angola.

Case Study No. 20: Khomas Region, Windhoek - 16-17-year-old female girl who claims at 7/8-years-old she was trafficked from Zambia into domestic labour in Namibia.²⁰⁷

She doesn’t exactly know her age but looks between 16 and 17-years old. She claims to have been trafficked into a 9-year domestic slavery in a Windhoek location. She depicts visible signs of physical abuse and mental trauma. After her father’s death, her mother had taken her to live

²⁰⁷The researcher visited the shelter on Friday 29 January 2010 at 1600 hours. On Monday 8 February at 1300 hours she interviewed the girl in person.

with her grandmother, who also later died. She had returned to live with her mother who had since remarried and divorced after producing a baby girl with her new husband.

One day her mother had informed her that some people were coming to take her to Namibia where she would work for good money to buy good things and bring them back to her family. The day after that, 3 adults, 2 women and 1 man, had arrived at her home and her mother had handed her over to them. She had soon discovered that she was not alone. She, together with another 4 little girls like herself, had, with their 3 adult companions travelled by car to a house in a place she did not know. They had slept there. The following morning, the man had taken the little girls on a long journey through the bushes until they arrived at a house in Katima Mulilo. The man had then left the little girls in the care of the woman owner of the house and gone his ways.

A few days later, 5 smart-looking women had arrived. Each had chosen the girl they preferred. The woman who chose her brought her to her house in Windhoek, where she looked after her 3 children and a grand-child, cleaned the house, tendered the garden, cooked the family meals and washed and ironed all their clothes. Other than being accommodated, fed and occasionally provided with clothing, her keepers she could only describe as in leafy green uniforms, never paid for her work. Whenever she asked her enslavers for pay for her work so that she could buy nice things to one day take to her mother and siblings as her recruiters had promised her mother, her madam would give her 50 or 100N\$, which she would soon demand back on the pretext that she was going to buy her clothes. For the whole 9 years she worked for this family, she was never allowed to go anywhere. She remained in the house and just worked. If she requested to go out and do some shopping for herself, the madam, who constantly warned her never to dare sleep with her husband, would beat and threaten her with death. She had eventually learnt that

there had been another girl like her before her. Her predecessor had apparently gotten pregnant from the 'big boss in the house' and produced a baby. The madam always reminded her about how badly her predecessor's baby had died. Throughout her 9-years-enslavement she had been subjected to immense suffering in beatings, insults, denial to food and long hours of work without pay.

But the older she got, the more she determined to, one day, run away from her slavery. So, finally, five months ago, she run to the neighbouring house and asked for assistance to find a paying job. The next thing she saw were people who said they were from Police who came to rescue her. The officers had in turn, handed her over to a house of safety where she had been kept undergoing counselling, care and support.

She has never had any documents of identity. Other than her family and village names, and her travel from her village to Windhoek, all she recollected was that she had four siblings, 2 older brothers, 1 young one, and 1 half sister who was still a baby when she left her home. The Shelter personnel are still trying to find out as much information as she can remember about her family and village in order to assist the law enforcement agents to identify her village and people in Western Zambia so that they can reunite them.

Other than signs of physical abuse, she doesn't depict signs of sexual abuse. She spoke fluent English and a bit of Afrikans she said she had learnt from her masters' school-going children, and Oshivambo and Subiya from her male and female bosses respectively. Asked what she feels when she is in the privacy of her life, she replies, 'Nothing; nothing-at-all. Only that I am all alone in this world where I had a mother who did not love me.'

2. Information from 60 (42 Male and 18 Female) Key Informants

Key Informant No. 1: 38-year-old Luderitz Male Community Activist²⁰⁸ - Years ago, his South African Zulu grand-father came to work in Swakopmund and produced 2 sons one of whom later married an Ovambo wife and produced him. Although he is still single, he has a long-term Nama female partner with whom he has 2 sons, 1 aged 22-years who failed Grade 12, and the second one who is 21-years attending a Vocational Training College.

He himself is a Grade 12 graduate who runs a one-man community campaign against alcohol/drug abuse, sexual exploitation, and streetism. He often rescues street kids from the streets and takes them back to schools. He sees what he now believes is organized prostitution through bar owners of 3 night spots where discos operate from 1800 hours to the small hours of the morning without any controls whatsoever. In this respect, he is convinced that the City is in a crisis, which he attributes to a numbers of factors, one of which is lack of responsible management which has led to lack of control and monitoring. Such deficiency is manifested in visible rampant prostitution where even some senior parastatal employees are seen sexually exploiting children:

‘Although the City is over populated, it has one of the nation’s highest unemployment rates, with the result that many young people are redundant without any useful pre-occupation. Young girls and boys are all the time hitting the streets from other parts of the country in search of work but find nothing. Prostitution is growing very fast. There are between 300-700 prostitutes who work the nights between 9pm and 1am; that’s a big

²⁰⁸Direct interview with the researcher

number, and yet more and more are coming all the time. Some girls come from the Coastal towns, particularly Walvis Bay, especially after one of the City's popular Night Clubs which used to serve as a prostitution brothel since mid 90s closed at the beginning of 2000. Unemployment figures are very high.'

He is concerned about the effect of the mushrooming illegal shebeens, bars and night clubs everywhere in the city on the youths, especially in the main market where 15-17-year-old school-going children can be seen freely frequenting. With the City's one High School and 5 Primary Schools not adequate to cater for some 35,000 learners, large numbers of learners are regularly dropping out of school and hitting the streets. They subsequently abuse alcohol and drugs, while child pregnancies have become rampant. His efforts to get the school authorities to act had yielded no results.

Because many adults also abuse alcohol and drugs, many parents have no control over their families, particularly during the weekends and school holidays with the result that violence against women and children is rampant. In addition, the City denotes large numbers of gays who are transforming themselves into 'moffies' (male-female-look-like prostitutes) to make more money. He maintains that as soon as HIV-positive prostitutes become noticeable to the community, they move to Rosh Pinah.

He believes that although the City is not aware about human trafficking and/or sex trafficking, young girls are known to be leaving for unknown places.

Key Informant No. 2: 54-year-old Male Police Officer in Sesheke²⁰⁹

Prostitution Movements - This Officer enthusiastically welcomed this researcher and informed her that his community sees a large influx of young girls from as far as the Copperbelt and Lusaka in Zambia via Livingstone and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe spilling in the area. While they purport as business women, once they cross the border, they check into lodges for weeks doing no visible commercial business except selling sex mainly to truck drivers and cross border business men who pay for their lodge accommodation. He believes that curbing this fairly new illegal trend of young girls and women crossing the sub-region's porous borders for prostitution will need wide sensitization that targets border law enforcement agents such as police, immigration and customs officers and other cooperating partners who should be educated on how they can sort out this horrible mess by knowledgeable facilitators.

He reiterates the fact that while the opening of Zambezi Bridge was a 'progressively wonderful economic venture' for the region's bordering countries of Botswana, Congo DRC, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia, it has since triggered an influx of human mobility in the area, including illicit movements. He cites a recent incident of a copse which crossed the border without notice:

'A truck with a refrigerated container from Namibia delivered chickens to Congo DRC. On its return journey, the truck carried a dead body from DCR into Namibia. Shortly after the truck crossed the border into Namibia, immigration authorities noticed vehicles carrying a large number of mourning relatives crossing the border posts going to bury. When they asked for the body, they were told it had already passed in a truck. The border

²⁰⁹Direct interview with the researcher on 6 November 2009 at 1100 hours

authorities could not do anything because they couldn't tell which of the many trucks that had passed through the borders that morning had the dead body in it'.

He emphasizes the fact that illegal border crossings of serious items such as dead bodies have the potential of posing a great danger to all the region's countries as it makes control of epidemics extremely difficult and could result in thousands upon thousands of people perishing within a very short period of time.

The Officer highlights what he refers to as a 'complication' rife in these border areas. The number of children dropping out of school in the villages on the Zambian side as a result of regular draughts and/or floods which adversely affect the areas' agricultural production was on the increase. Correspondingly, there was a growing demand for cattle herders, domestic workers and young brides on the Namibian side.

The result was that due to increasing poverty levels, some parents and guardians on the Zambian side were known to sell children, especially orphans for labour purposes. He pointed out that such young labour seekers usually don't travel through official border posts and urban areas. Their recruiters avoid the police by guiding their victims through bush paths and canoes across Zambezi River, while they themselves clear through the official border posts on 'day passes'.

The kids' employers usually live in urban areas where they are in formal employment and occasionally travel to their villages to monitor their young employees, mainly at the month-ends or holidays. The police only realize there is something wrong when a major tragedy befalls either the employer or the child in his work place in the rural area. With increasing urban crime, during the employers' absence, their homes are often ransacked by thieves. That is when the problem

manifests. On the other hand, the young herders graze the cattle in the flood areas where they often times fall sick from malaria or other diseases and some even die.

Another aspect is that characteristically, the new employers usually pay their young employees their first wages, after which they default and accumulate unpaid wages. When the kids demand their wages, and the employers fail to pay, the young herders decide to pay themselves through the animals they are herding by confiscating the number they deem to be equivalent to the accumulated wages and run away. Their employers subsequently accuse them of theft, pursue, apprehend and bundle them to police stations.

In other cases, when the young herders fail to secure their wages from their employers, they run away to loam town streets as street kids, prostitutes and pimps abusing alcohol and drugs.

Cross border marriages - was another common problem. For the same reasons as in the case of young cattle herders and domestic labour, a new trend whereby men cross the border into Zambia and take young girls to marry had also emerged. Such marriages are often a fertile breeding ground for abuse and desertions as well as deaths mainly due to the fact that these young girls don't have adults with their own interests at heart around them. Often times, by the time their plight comes to the attention of law enforcement agents, it is too late. If they are lucky enough to run away, they hit the streets and add to the number of young girls in prostitution.

This Officer was also concerned about high levels of **alcohol** consumption in the surround communities which he believes is the main source of most social problems. In recent years, border police had witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of trucks felling beer from Namibia to Zambia. He cited the large amount of liquor on sale in COMESA Market in Lusaka which he says serves as testimony to the popularity and easy accessibility of Namibian beer

everywhere in Southern Africa. Business men were known to pay as much as five million Zambian Kwacha (ZK5,000,000) for one light Canter Truck full of Windhoek Lager to cross the border.

In his opinion, human trafficking in the area has reached alarming proportions. He cites the case of a Congolese man who in 2004 was arrested in Sesheke for trafficking children. Unfortunately, due to lack of properly collaboration, the case had not been successfully prosecuted, with the result that the suspected trafficking culprit had gotten off the hook scotch free.

He believes that although it is difficult for the Police to totally stop such illegal human interactions, they (Police) have the capacity to root out the lodgers at the border points, especially truck drivers. While trucks crossing the borders could be subject to thorough searches, current limited levels of manpower make such a task impossible. He proposes that border posts be manned by adequate and well trained law enforcement agents. He believes that if border posts are manned by a team of 12 law enforcement officers comprising 3 police, 3 immigration, 3 customs, and 3 intelligence officers who work in shifts of 4 around the clock and constantly change (transfer) to avoid familiarity that breeds manipulation and corruption, it is possible to control the situation. Such teams could include Passport Officers to ensure that all people crossing the borders have legally correct travel documents. Such movements could be monitored through proper registrations on both borders to ensure mutually acceptable migration of mature herders, domestic workers and brides safely return to their countries when things don't work out to their satisfaction. To him, extensive sensitization along the border posts is key in solving these complex intra-regional problems, he concludes.

Key Informant No. 3: Zimbabwean Female Social Worker in Katima Mulilo²¹⁰

This female Social Worker/Probation Officer says that child labour and slavery between Botswana, Congo DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe have become a ‘great movement of uncontrollable proportions’.

She feels sorry that while local children in Katima Mulilo have the opportunity to go to school, many boys on the Zambian side are recruited to herd cattle and for cultivation and farm labour as far as grapevines along the Orange River; and girls to work as maids in houses while their plight is little known about. What perplexes her most is the fact that rather than these labouring children collecting their wages, it is their elders in the form of relatives and recruiters who receive the wages the kids work for under very difficult circumstances.

In her capacity as a Probation Officer, she often represents Zambian children accused of thefts in Court. She cites a case in which a 9-year-old male cattle herder who, because he demanded for his pay, was chased and left to sleep in a tyre of a vehicle in the open. As a result, he contracted malaria and was eventually brought to hospital without any identification documents at all.

In another bizarre case, an under-age charcoal-burner who was accused of illegally cutting down trees has been languishing in police custody for almost 1 year. His employer could not defend him and he doesn’t know the whereabouts of his parents.

Sadly, when such children, like any other young children get sick, they have nobody to look after them. As a result, by the time they are brought to hospital, they have already reached critical situations and when they die their bodies remain in the mortuary for long periods of time without anybody claiming them. Two hundred days after such a death, one body was still lying in the

²¹⁰Direct interview with this expatriate nurse on 7 November 2009 at 1000 hours

mortuary. All efforts to trace its next of kin to come and claim it for burial had yielded negative results mainly because, just like the many other illegal workers in the area, the dead person had no proper identifications.

She points out that because Katima Mulilo Clinic has a high number of HIV patients, the Namibian Government has put a system in place that ensures that ARVs are only administered to people who need them. This however, means that people have to wait to complete all necessary procedures before they can commence the therapy such as proper documentation of identities. Often times, however, patients are not ready to go through such procedures and the possible inevitable consequential exposures. On the other hand, on the Zambian side, ARVs are given without stringent procedures. So, many Namibians seeking easily accessible ARVs just cross the border and secure them, a situation which triggers increased influx of cross border movements and curtails proper monitoring.

Key Informant No. 4: Zambian Male Social Worker in Sesheke²¹¹

While the prevailing situation in Sesheke had been bothering him for some time now, his efforts to get it addressed had failed. He attributes what he sees to the following background:

1. While the local population previously depended on fishing for their entire livelihood, due to over fishing, Zambezi River fish had gradually depleted. This situation had forced the people to revert to subsistence crop farming. However, this too had been adversely affected by:

- a) Persistent severe draught which had drastically reduced annual crop yields and subsequently affected the subsistent farmers' living standards;

²¹¹Direct interview with the researcher on 26 November 2008 at 1430 hours

- b) Global warming had possibly influenced Zambezi River water levels with annual rains causing the river to swell and over-spills (floods) to the areas around the river banks, grossly destroying large stretches of crops;
- c) Farmers who, before the draughts hit used to cultivate in higher grounds have since resorted to cultivate in lower grounds with the result that floods persistently destroyed their crops; and
- d) Wild animals which annually follow the animal corridor that stretches from Botswana, through Zimbabwe to Namibia and destroy crops ready for harvesting on the West Bank of Sesheke flats in Kalobo, New Kaparu, Ngwereze and Imusho in Zambia.

The consequence was that local farmers are annually forced to prematurely harvest their crops to avoid large losses with the result that their yields are lower and poorer.

The result of all these changes is that children in these communities have been adversely affected. The less food households have, the more young children leave home in search of means to support themselves and their poor parents and siblings. They go to cities and towns in search of piece works or cross the border into Namibia in search of work as cattle herders, domestic workers, cultivators or young brides. He says that many Zambian children illegally cross into Namibia in search of greener pastures. Some are even trafficked because they are deceived with lucrative job opportunities, and instead end in slave conditions. They subsequently suffer abuse and exploitation.

So during the cultivation period from January to March, schools along the West bank are literally empty. This year (2008), schools in Kapawu, Ngweze and Imusho near the Namibian border closed due to lack of learners. Sesheke North is a little better but this is a big problem which is negatively affecting these areas and their future development. He is sure if a closer examination

of who the street children in Namibia was made, they would be found to be mainly Zambian children. A few weeks ago, he rescued a young boy who he took to a children's home on the Zambian side.

He stresses that the problem of illegal migrations between Zambia and Namibia has become too complex. In Caprivi region of Namibia marrying a wife has become expensive as men are required to pay a lot of cattle in dowry. So these days what many men do is to cross into Zambia, abduct young girls and take them as brides without any legal documents. They then make the young wives work for them like slaves with the result that such marriages become highly abusive. The girls are sexually abused, raped and made pregnant. When the men no longer want them, they simply chase them away completely with nothing and when they (women) get sick, their husbands dump them at hospitals or border posts. He stresses that cases of abuse and exploitation between Zambian and Namibian borders abound. He cites a number of cases he has had to deal with:

- 1) A Namibian business man took a Zambian girl less than half his age and made her pregnant. After she delivered she got very sick with AIDS. He threw her out of his home but kept the baby for whom he hired maids to care for. He felt sorry that the poor girl lost her baby;
- 2) A Zambian woman who was killed by her Namibian husband;
- 3) Another woman who was made to leave her 2-months old baby behind;
- 4) A young boy who was left abandoned after his mother's death and was eventually taken to a children's home; and
- 5) The latest case that involved a 17-year-old girl who was rescued after being sexually abused and also taken to a children's home.

What he finds perplexing was the reality that most unfortunately, in these hard times, some parents had resorted to selling their daughters into marriages-of-convenience to ease their financial problems.

HIV/AIDS was another major concern. According to him, many parents in Sesheke, have, or are dying, leaving orphans without anybody to care for them. As a result they drop out of school, and since Sesheke has no children's centre, there are no facilities for children-in-need-of-care.

Prostitution was another area of concern. In his opinion, 'redundant people can do anything to make a living'. So because Sesheke is a border-post that connects a number of countries (Botswana, Congo DRC and Zambia) together, poor girls from all these countries searching for livelihoods end up selling sex to truck drivers and business men who sometimes sleep in transit.

He points out that the Zambian government has recognized child labour and street children in the areas as growing problems of great concern. The Department of Social Welfare has subsequently sponsored a local high school.

However, a combination of an ever growing number of children waiting to be repatriated, and a severe shortage of social workers demonstrate the level of challenges at hand. He believes that one social worker tasked to administer the office and simultaneously carry out field work was an impossible task, to say the least. He further stresses the need for social workers from Sesheke and Katima Mulilo to work collaborate together to identify children in these situations and organize their repatriations.

Key Informant No. 5: A Zambian Female International Relations Internee in Sesheke²¹²

This young International Relations Internee says that the illegal movement of people between Botswana, Congo DRC, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe has become a major problem, especially as it evokes abuse, exploitation and deaths. However, to her dismay, despite her country having a well developed Child Protection Act, child exploitation was rife all over the country.

Key Informant No. 6: Rundu-based Female Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Officer²¹³

This BCC Officer says her organization targets social groups that are vulnerable to HIV infection such as truck drivers, commercial sex workers (CSW), in-school-out-of-school youths, and community men and women. She adds that when BCC (Behaviour Change Communication) started, she worked with 13 commercial sex workers, giving them personal education on risky behaviour and its relationship with HIV/AIDS and the use of condoms for prevention.

During her interactions with these young women, she discovered that the main reason they had joined prostitution was lack of parents, jobs and rejection by families and communities.

BCC officers were also surprised that whenever they gave the prostitutes condoms and argued them to use them for protection against HIV, the majority refused saying that men paid them

²¹²Direct interview with the researcher on 26 November 2008 at 1530 hours

²¹³Direct interview with the researcher on 28 November 2008 at 1100 hours

more money for naked sex. Of the 13 commercial sex workers her organization works with in Rundu, 2 are already full blown AIDS patients.

The latest problem involved business men from across the Kavango River who take girls for sex over night and send them back the following day. In some cases, these men promise the girls marriage but later when the girls get pregnant the men desert them, leaving them with little option but to enter into prostitution.

She is particularly worried that the current national HIV/AIDS policy intervention formulation mainly draws on information derived from field development workers. In her opinion, 'such information is often inadequate and/or incorrect, with the result that the large amount of funds going into the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS are not necessarily yielding positive results'.

A further complication was the fact that due to the silence and stigma that still surrounds the HIV/AIDS, HIV-positive people were still reluctant to talk about their HIV/AIDS status and to commence their ARV treatment. Of the many HIV positive people that her organization took through the Voluntary, Counselling and Testing (VCT) programme in readiness for ARV treatment, only one returned to confirm that she had commenced her course.

This BCC Officer was quick to point out that at her organization they use the **term commercial sex workers** because it sounds better and is more socially acceptable and respected than the word prostitution and/or street hookers.

She emphasizes the fact that whereas at first the commercial sex workers start selling their bodies because of poverty, even after they are assisted to stop the trade and get into formal

employment, they find it difficult to settle down mainly because selling their bodies becomes a habit. They also face societal rejection and stigma. So, unlike ordinary people who usually develop perseverance-oriented-strategies when faced with severe social and economic problem, prostitutes, mainly because they are socially segregated, discard perseverance and instead choose a very difficult way of living. It all has to do with what they get used to, that is criminal activities such as stealing and manipulating men, etc.

She also believes there is a direct link between high levels of school-drop-outs, mainly at Grade 10, when, if the learners are over 16-years, they are not allowed to repeat and lack the necessary money to join NAMCOL. They inevitably become victims of urban destitution, and subsequently, end up as prostitutes and street boys.

Key Informant No. 7: Male Guest Lodge Proprietor in Rundu²¹⁴

In recent months, Okavango area has dramatically witnessed increased incidences of prostitution. According to this male private entrepreneur, the influx of Angolan businessmen in his reasonably priced guest house almost turned it into a brothel for Angolan male sex customers and local girls. He had recently changed all his staff and introduced strict regulations for access.

A more complex problem was men who took young girls across the river under the pretext of marriage but, who, when they tire with them, just chase them away. The result was that because the girls are too embarrassed to return home, they resort to prostitution. He is also concerned about the amount of alcohol daily felled in canoes across the river into Angola.

²¹⁴Direct interview with the researcher on 28 November 2008 at 1800 hours

Key Informant No. 8: South African Male Truck Driver at a Petrol Station in Keetmanshoop²¹⁵

This 23-year-old Cape Coloured South African Truck Driver dropped out of Grade in 10 in 2002 at the age of 17-years. His parents had insisted he must marry his classmate he had made pregnant. With the heavy responsibility of a young wife and baby at a tender age without any specific skills, the only job he had found was truck driving. Thus, he had driven trucks since 19-years of age in 2004. He transports onions from Cape Town to Oshikango and returns back to South Africa with charcoal twice a week. He spends 2 full days on a stretch driving night and day with neither proper sleep nor normal food. When he gets tired, he parks the truck by the roadside in a bushy stretch and takes a quick nap, and starts again. He laments:

‘Truck driving is a very bad job, which is despised and stigmatized as most truck drivers are poorly educated. Because Trucking companies don’t allow more than one driver for one truck, and truck drivers spend 90% of their time driving very long distances carrying valuable heavy loads, they use the travel money they are given to entice prostitutes for company and sex. In the process drivers get diseases such as STDS and HIV/AIDS which they in turn take back to their wives and other girl friends. Inevitably, the entire group dies about the same time leaving many helpless orphans behind.’

He cites a close friend, who together with his wife died last year. Now there is nobody to care for their kids. Often times, when these sexually desperate drivers are approaching the towns they intend to pick up prostitutes from, they phone their regular contacts to inform them they are on the way and will need girls. As far as he is concerned, truck drivers are as hopeless and stupid as the prostitutes they pick. Because he didn’t want to fall in the same trap as his colleagues, he

²¹⁵Direct interview with the researcher on 1 January 2009 at 1800 hours

requested one of his male cousins to regularly escort him at a personal fee. He says that although it is not acceptable to his employers, it is none the less better than to die and leave his young family behind suffering.

As far as he is concerned, 'truck driving is a very dangerous job'. He always feels his life is in danger because he is aware that criminals see his truck passing from South to North and mark its number. One of his truck driver friends was ambushed, his truck load and all the truck tyres robbed. He was lucky to be left alive. However, he is not tempted to carry a gun with him on the long highway drive because he believes that in case of a highway attack if criminals find him armed, they are likely to kill him, but if they find him unarmed, they are likely to just rob the cargo and leave him alive.

While he dreadfully hates his job and plans to leave it as soon as he accumulates enough cash to go into self-employment, for the time being he has no alternative but to tolerate it because he neither have better qualifications nor alternative skills to get another job.

From his personal experience, truck owners don't care much about the lives of the drivers. In case of death from accident or highway attack, the companies will have their trucks back on the road before the driver's body is buried. The SAR2400 drivers are paid per round trip means nothing. It is for this reason that whereas he could make much more than the R9,000 he takes home a month, he insists on working only 5 days a week so that he spends 2 days a week with his wife and child because he values his family as the most important thing in his life. Whereas his friends who work 7 days a week and take home as much as SAR16000 a month, they have no option but to pick prostitutes along the highways for dangerous sex. He wishes governments could understand the extend truck drivers are badly abused and exploited by their employers.

Key Informant No. 9: Namibia Defence Forces (NDF) Male Soldier in Keetmashoop²¹⁶

This researcher found this 27-year-old male soldier, together with his three friends, drinking and harassing 3 teenage prostitutes in the streets of Tseiblaagte Location at 2000hours on New Year, 2009.

After completing Grade 12, he joined Namibia Defence Forces (NDF). His father remarried shortly after his mother's death.

He finds that whereas everybody is now equal in independent Namibia, the greatest problem is that the majority of young people lack parental guidance, with the result that they suffer a lot of 'shit'. As far as he is concerned the problem has reached such uncontrollable levels that it can visibly be seen everywhere and there is just no hope anymore. He believes it is because of this level of hopelessness that 'some people take young people to London and turn them to prostitution'.

Although he is still a single man, he has 3 children mothered by 3 different young girls. As a soldier, whenever he has a problem, he approaches Police, Doctors and Lawyers for assistance.

Key Informant No. 10: An Unemployed Male Youth in Keetmanshoop²¹⁷

He is a 27-year-old unemployed male, who dropped out of Grade 8 in 1997 at the age of 15 years. He then worked in Luderitz for 11 years as a garden-boy until his father's death when he

²¹⁶Direct interview in Tseiblaagte Location on 1 January 2009 at 2000 hours

²¹⁷Direct interview in Tseiblaagte Location on 1 January 2009 at 2000 hours

had to return to Keetmanshoop to look after his widowed mother and 8 siblings, 4 girls and 4 boys. He has since been able to find a job. Although he is still single, he has 3 children cared for by his mother.

He says that because there are no jobs to keep young people usefully occupied, the majority of young people preoccupy themselves in alcohol, drug abuse and prostitution. Although he himself doesn't know any specific person who has been trafficked, he often sees young girls jumping on trucks along B1 High Way heading north. He has no idea where they end and what happens to them. He would hate his sister going that way.

Key Informant No. 11: Female Petrol Attendant at a Petrol Station in Keetmanshoop²¹⁸

This 25-year-old female petrol attendant regretted that the research team had come to Keetmanshoop at the wrong time since it was holiday time and trucks and their drivers were also on holiday. She emphasized that had the team come the previous week before the trucks went on holidays, or if it could stay on for a few more days until the trucks resumed their trips from South Africa to Namibia and Angola after the holidays, it would see how the entire place fills with trucks, hunters (truck drivers) and truck jumpers (prostitutes). She is amazed that male sex customers are so blind that they can't see that most of the 'truck jumpers' they go with in Keetmanshoop are visibly dirty and sick:

'I am puzzled. Their skins are full of rashes, but despite that, they happily jump into trucks and 'the hunters' happily drive away. All that matters is that they have caught their 'fish'. May I ask, what is wrong with men? They are very strange. You just can't trust them, full stop! That is why, working here and seeing what I see every day, I can't dare trust any

²¹⁸Direct interview with researcher on 1 January 2009 at 1800 hours

man, even my current boyfriend. I only listen to what he is telling me when he is in front of me. As soon as he turns his back, I don't know what he is up to. They are not worth it.'

Key Informant No. 12: Male Petrol Attendant at a Petrol Station in Keetmanshoop²¹⁹

This 28-years-old Male petrol attendant informs the researcher and her companions that because most prostitutes in Keetmanshoop are sponsored by truck drivers, since it is holiday time the petrol station was dry of 'truck jumpers'. He notes that the previous night 4 prostitutes had been hanging around but had jumped on the only truck that stopped by. From his experience working as a petrol attendant in Keetmanshoop 13 hours a day, even those fighting HIV/AIDS were just wasting their time as nobody would be able to control HIV/AIDS as long as truck hunters and their jumpers continued their business.

Key Informant No. 13: Male HIV/AIDS Counsellor²²⁰

This 46-year-old male HIV/AIDS Counsellor at a Church in Keetmanshoop Town centre describes himself as 'a husband and father'. He insists that in accordance with his traditions, his wife must stay at home and take good care of his 5 children aged 28, 21, 18, 13 and 10 years and his house. He is therefore perturbed that families are allowing their daughters to jump on trucks the way he sees happening in Keetmanshoop.

He maintains that from his counselling experience, the number one problem facing the nation and its youth is unemployment. He believes most people he counsels would listen to him better

²¹⁹Director interview with the researcher on 3 January 2009 at 0830 hours

²²⁰Direct interview with the researcher at Keetmanshoop Town Centre on 2 January 2009 at 1300 hours

if he 'had something tangible to give them meet their daily material needs rather than telling them to avoid contracting HIV infection on hungry stomachs'.²²¹

Key Informant No. 14: A Male Bus Conductor in Windhoek²²²

This young man who doubles as a student at one of the national tertiary institutions strongly believes that the main problem facing the youth is unemployment. He cites a recent media report that one of the mining conglomerates was due to lose 705 jobs. He is sure that such a huge job-cut would affect many people because 705 monthly incomes support many family members that include wives, children and relatives, both in town and in villages:

'If each family has two girls in school, and due to loss of family income those two girls drop out, they will have nowhere to go except the streets with highly negative multiplier consequences. When living becomes very hard, and a man comes along and offers money for sex, the girls are likely to find it hard to refuse when in fact they need the money. There and then, they have commenced the prostitution route; they didn't plan to; it just happened because of their economic circumstances!'

He notes that the rate at which prostitution in Namibia is increasing is very high and growing dramatically fast. He further observes that prostitutes in Namibia include those from all its neighbouring countries, the majority of whom are facilitated to move by people who have the means, mainly truck and car drivers. Sadly, when police apprehend such girls, the usual reaction is to deport them, although such action is not the answer as within no time, the girls return.

²²¹Direct interview at Keetmanshoop Town Centre on 2 January 2009 at 1300 hours

²²²Direct interview in a Trans Regional Express Bus Office in Windhoek 23 February 2009 at 1600 hours

He laments that prostitution usually goes with a host of other vices including increased number of street kids and human trafficking for sexual exploitation. He believes the answer to these complex problems lays in empowering young people with life skills they can convert into livelihoods.

He cites the successful programme the researcher implemented a few years ago in Zambia, withdrawing prostitutes from the streets, rehabilitating them, and providing them with skills they used to earn their living rather than from selling sex. He recalls that at its peak, Lusaka was completely clear of prostitutes but that recent years have witnessed an overflow of street prostitutes again. He deeply regrets that the people who later took over that programme failed and the programme did not continue the way it had started. He none the less strongly believes such programmes are what are required to address this huge problem.

Key Informant No. 15: Zimbabwean Male Hotelier at Karasburg²²³

This Zimbabwean former teacher who came to Karasburg in search of better livelihood following Zimbabwean economic collapse notes that human morals in Karasburg had become so eroded that they are practically non-existent. Subsequently, it was not uncommon to see a three generation family of a mother, daughter, grand-son, and kids all in a sheebin drinking as early as 1000 hours in the morning.

With regard to prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation, he observes that in Karasburg, young female prostitutes who can easily be identified from their type of attires are daily seen

²²³Direct interview with the researcher on 17 January 2009 at 2000 hours

moving in groups, approaching trucks and talking to the drivers, and then jumping into the trucks and moving on, a phenomenon he sums as the ‘taste of Karasburg’s daily bread!’

At the gambling house not too far, truck drivers could be seen packing, and after taking one or two beers, negotiating with some girls, after which they get back into their trucks and move on. He expresses deep regret:

‘AIDS came at the wrong time; it is just like adding salt to an open wound.’

He points to his friend’ (a nurse at Karasburg State Hospital) who estimates that every other person in the town is surviving on ARVs. He is at a loss as to what needs to be done in such circumstances. It seems that the adult generation has dismally failed the youth whom they have thrown into the streets with boys as highway truck drivers, street criminal gangs, prostitute pimps and drug dealers; while girls are truck jumpers (prostitutes). He concludes that youths live very dangerous lifestyles, and are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and HIV/AIDS, with the result that they have no lives as they die so young.

Key Informant No. 16: A Female Immigration Officer at Ariamsvlei Border Post²²⁴

This 32-year-old female Immigration officer is shocked that contrary to what she knows to prevail in other parts of North, especially the North where parents still control their children’s behaviour, parents in the Southern towns are themselves contributing to youth problems. Parental control and guidance was missing. School learners between 15 and 17-years of age can be seen going with much older men for sex. When they return home with money, parents and guardians just receive the money without asking where it is coming from. She finds the whole

²²⁴Direct interview with the researcher on 17 January 2009 at 1300 hours

living and surviving environment highly challenging as most of the young girls she sees are either pregnant or with young kids without being married and alcohol consumption as their main preoccupation.

She also attributes the problem to complete absence of recreational activities, with the immediate consequence that young kids spend their time in sheebins and bars drinking.

She laments that apart from the porous condition of most border posts making it difficult for border personnel to adequately control border crossings, poor working environment and facilities for border personnel such as poor housing and lack of transport are aggravating the problem. Both civil servants and law enforcement agents are not adequately motivated to control the border areas. While housing for civil servants recently improved, law enforcement agents are still living in very poor houses in the location. She points to the 17km between the Namibian and the South African border posts with a 2km 'no man's land' which makes effective border control extremely difficult.

She contends that the main activity at this border post for border personnel is clearing an average of 100 trucks per day. When a truck driver presents proper travel and cargo documents, they clear him. If he is carrying other cargo other than what is stated on the papers such as a human being, he might easily pass, particularly at night when the border personnel are few and tired. It is particularly difficult for them to check what is inside heavily loaded trucks under poorly lit conditions. She hopes that when the long promised new border post is constructed closer to the South African border, the situation will improve.

On HIV/AIDS, she recalls days when AIDS awareness teams used to bring condoms to the border, which she has not seen for some time now. She regrets that lack of condoms in the rest rooms at the border exposes truck drivers who help themselves with young prostitutes to great risks as AIDS remains a big problem along these highways. She believes that area councillors hold the key to changing these things.

Key Informant No. 17: A Male HIV/AIDS Educator at Ariamsvlei Border Post²²⁵

This 30-year-old HIV Awareness activist stresses that the major problem in Ariamsvlei relates to school learners' love of money. He regularly sees girls in school uniforms in sheebins drinking and chasing men for cash. During the school holidays, they go with truck drivers to South Africa to look for money, after which they drop out of school. This, he views as a calamity for the nation as a whole.

Key Informant No. 18: Tswana Male Truck Driver at a Petrol Station in Grunau²²⁶

This 46-year-old Tswana truck driver describes himself as a husband and father. He has been driving trucks for his living for 7 years since 1992 principally because driving trucks is all he knows how to do:

'If one is a truck driver, and he is careless with his life, he is a dead man. I drive alone from Cape Town to Windhoek every week. Very young girls stop me. They ask me for lifts. When I ask them how much money they want to pay me for lifting them to Windhoek, they tell me they don't have money. When I ask them how they expect me to

²²⁵Direct interview with the researcher on 16 January 2009 at 1300 hours

²²⁶Direct interview with the researcher on 16 January 2009 at 0900 hours

lift them for nothing, they tell me they ‘can be my wives for the journey’. I feel very sorry for them but I also fully understand their problem. What can they do? They need to search for money to live on, just like I must drive trucks for my living!’

Key Informant No. 19: Male Petrol Attendant at another Grunau Petrol Station²²⁷

This 32-year-old petrol attendant is married with 3 kids and owns his own house and car. He states that in his job as a petrol attendant at a highway petrol station he sees so many trucks stop, fill petrol and truck drivers buy fast food and move on. He has also come to understand and accept the fact that young girls jumping on the trucks and heading north is part of life, mainly because the girls have no alternative but to survive! He be-mourns the plight of the youth who annually drop out of school without any prospects for employment to sustain their lives. Against this background, jumping on trucks is the only thing they can do to survive.

Key Informant No. 20: South African Male Truck Driver a Petrol Station, Karasburg²²⁸

This researcher and her companions found this 40-years-old Cape Coloured South African truck driver surrounded by 7 young prostitutes in the dead of the night. He informed them that he started working in trucks as a handling-boy at the age of 18 years, 22 years ago, after he dropped out of Grade 6 following his parents’ death. Eight years ago, he finally managed to get a driving license and started driving trucks. He proudly shared that he had driven trucks throughout all SADC nations and is well known along all their highways.

²²⁷Direct interview with the researcher on 16 January 2009 at 1000 hours

²²⁸Direct interview with the researcher on 18 January 2009 at 0100 hours

Although he is married and has 2 grown up sons ages 20 and 21 years from his first wife, he also has a 4-year-old daughter from a girlfriend along the highways in Namibia. As far as he is concerned, driving trucks is a very dangerous job and trucking company systems are just killing drivers:

‘They send us out there to die. I am crying. Many of my friends have died on these roads. If it is not from accidents, it is from AIDS. These roads are very dangerous places. We carry very heavy machines. If we have accidents, the machines roll and kill us’.

From his experience, truck drivers are dying in the service of their nations, but that they are poorly paid and exploited and their governments don’t know and appreciate their contribution to nation building. He is convinced that it is long distance drivers who are building these nations because if they don’t deliver even the smallest of household items members of the general public need and use on a daily basis such as toothpaste there will be a serious problem. Leaning on a 17-year-old street prostitute’s shoulder, he mourns:

‘Here in Namibia, show me one successful truck driver. Only 10 out of every 100 own their own houses, and 95% lose their marriages through divorces. Our lives are the same as those of Robin Island political prisoners. They sacrificed their lives for the region’s freedom and prosperity, but when they were eventually released, they found their wives had long found other husbands. They had lost time, families and their lives. These highways are battlegrounds. We are our countries’ economic soldiers. Whichever way you take it, here on these roads, we are serving our nations, but trucking companies are destroying our health, our families and our nations. We serve them but we die and they profit.’

He recalls the day he asked a Christian woman whether in her daily prayers she prayed for truck drivers, to which the woman demanded to know why she should pray for truck drivers in particular. When he informed her that she ought to thank God for truck drivers because they are the ones who deliver all the goods she uses in her home, the woman pondered and gently confirmed that such a thing never occurred to her before.

Recommendation: In his opinion, the solution to the problem of truck drivers and street women and girls lies in trucking companies. They should simply halt the prohibition of truck drivers from taking passengers and allow them to take their wives along with them on these long distances to share their problems and keep them company. If truck drivers travelled with their wives, the drivers would not resort to highway prostitutes and die young, leaving so many widows and orphans behind. ‘Our Governments need to think about these things’, he concluded.

Key Informant No. 21: Male Youth Leader in Karasburg²²⁹

As far as this 35-year-old Karasburg youth leader is concerned, the future of the youth in the country is bleak, as he laments:

‘Vision 2030 is for those adults sitting in offices in the city, and not for young people because by the time the year 2030 comes, very few young people will be around to see it as most of them will be dead’.

He stresses that in Karasburg, the majority of school-learners drop out of school before they reach Grade 12, primarily because they spend most of their school time in sheebins drinking and chasing trucks. Eventually they get HIV and die from AIDS.

²²⁹Direct interview with the researcher on 18 January 2009 at 1900 hours

As a young leader, he is particularly frustrated that youth leaders' advice to their elderly leaders falls on deaf ears. The elders are simply too busy to listen, and instead, blame young people for not trying hard enough to use their youth for national development.

He be-mourns premature exit at various levels of the educational system (Grades 7, 10 and 12) without life-skills to help youth people earn their own living. The immediate consequence is that thousands upon thousands of young people fall into social and economic disadvantage which manifest in streetism, alcoholism and drug abuse, crime, teenage motherhood, prostitution and exposure to terminal diseases like HIV/AIDS.

He cites countries such as Zimbabwe where learners are taught skills in secondary schools. By the time they finish high schools they have simultaneously acquired a vocational skill.

He recalls repeated promises to create jobs for young people which has not materialized and that although Namibia's economy and infrastructure are very good, people are not taking advantage of these opportunities enough to improve their lives. To him, research without actionable interventions will not improve the situation of young people as long as young people in Namibia remain vulnerable to social and economic difficulties.

Key Informant No. 22: 2 Nurses, a male and a female at a Karasburg Hotel²³⁰

According to these two health professionals, while crime in Karasburg remains minimal as the town is small and fairly still conservative, and one can still walk late at night without worrying about being mugged, robbed or raped, trends such as begging especially by homeless street

²³⁰Direct interview with the researcher on 11 January 2009 at 1900 hours

children, youth alcohol consumption, prostitution, alcohol-instigated conflicts and domestic violence are visibly on the increase.

With regard to HIV/AIDS, they find the situation pathetic, particularly among 15 to 50 year-old people, although cases of 70-year-olds have also been recorded. While Namibia has a lot of resources in terms of medicines including ARVs, increased cases of TB are associated to HIV and many HIV-positive persons are often times reluctant to go for treatment. The last 6-months have recorded a marked increase in the prevalence of Tuberculosis (TB), hypertension (HP) and diabetes. Apart from the fact that most TB patients do not usually adhere to treatment instructions and continue smoking, drinking alcohol and practicing unprotected sex, a large number are resistant to TB conventional drugs.

Finally, they contend young people in the area, most of whom hail from mixed backgrounds of Baster, coloured and Khosa (South Africa), 'suffer an identity crisis which makes it difficult for them to move forward in a more dynamic way'.

Key Informant No. 23: An NGO Female Officer in Windhoek on 8 April 2009

Prevalence: She is not aware of sex trafficking cases. She has heard about suspected trafficking of children for farm, leather, cattle and goat herding labour.

Laws: She is aware that trafficking in persons is outlawed by the 2004 Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA). It is also included in the proposed Child Protection Draft Bill.

Services: She is not aware about the existence of any.

Recommendations: She has none.

Key Informant No. 24: Female 'MISA Officer on 8 April, 2009 in Windhoek

She is concerned that young Namibian girls are being used for pornography in Namibia, Europe and USA. Some of them have been posted on Face Book where they can be viewed. As far as she is concerned, this relatively new trend is foreign to Namibia and is not acceptable. She has never heard of any laws to stop and/or punish human trafficking.

Problem: She believes government should provide for the people so that they don't have to end in such situations. She doesn't understand why squatters should be allowed to exist and why some people have to live in them.

Recommendation: Government should address the root causes of the problem.

Key Informant No. 25: A Female NGO Officer in Windhoek on 8 April 2009

She receives the researcher:

'You have come at the right time. Our Network, together with one of the UN agencies have, for some time now, been concerned about human trafficking in Namibia, especially Katima Mulilo where I myself hail. There are men in Zambia acting as agents. They ask if you want a girl to work for you, they go and bring the girl across the river, as young as 9 years old, who works in very bad conditions without being paid because the men collect the money and take it to their mothers. When she grows up she refuses to work, so she goes into sex work. It is no wonder HIV rate in Katima Mulilo is very high. It is the same with boy cattle herders. The agents have passports so they cross through the border, but the kids don't, so they cross in canoes. When these kids get sick, that is a very terrible situation. People want workers, they don't want sick people. The kids get traumatized. There are many children who have died in this country. One month ago, one Congolese man was selling a child from Zambia but he was arrested. He is in prison. Some dead

bodies were found in Katima Mulilo without body parts. The perpetrators have not been found. We never had street kids in Katima Mulilo but now there are so many. In Rundu, all the streets kids are Angolan kids. Some of us tried to talk about it but we were told that those were only rumours without proof.’

Recommendation: He believes it will take community responsibility to deal with human trafficking in Namibia:

‘People say it is the job of Government, but who is government. Government is we the people. Government must bring us together so we deal with it through advocacy, awareness and education. But we need an adequate law in place. This research is very important. It will help us as implementers because we can’t work on rumours. We need proof.’

Key Informant No. 26: A Male Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) Officer on 9 April 2009 in Windhoek

“ACC in the region has not met as a regional body. There is no standardization. The Police have a regional body, with a wider mandate to deal with organized crime, drugs and matters such as movement of human organs. Botswana ACC has even a wider mandate, they deal with economic crimes. Our mandate is very narrow. So, I am quite sure Namibia is being used as a transit country for human trafficking but passports in the region are a great big concern to us. If you have a Namibian Passport, you can easily get into some European countries. There is, unfortunately, a big burden of proof. It is very difficult to prove these cases. But Immigration Officers are now sharp. Some of them are well trained. They are looking out for these foreigners. The current situation in Zimbabwe is

being exploited. When I was a police officer, we saw criminal gangs becoming more and more sophisticated. Nigerian groups have been around for as long as I can remember. Angola is now a big market, especially during the unrest days. Angry hungry citizens create a market for criminals,' he concludes.

He refers to a Guinea youth soccer player who was arrested in Namibia on an Angolan Emergency Travel Document.

Recommendation: Review the judicial system and legislation to look at human contact issues and consequences, followed by educating and appointment of integrity Officers.

Key Informant No. 27: A Male Senior Customers Officer on 11 April 2009 at Ariamsvlei Border Post

'Yes, sex trafficking possibility can be there, but Customs Officers only deal with cargo clearances, not immigration. Truck drivers are prohibited from taking passengers, but they normally pick prostitutes at Keetmanshoop to play with. The prostitutes have no passports, so the drivers drop them before the borders. We have apprehended many people. Farm owners call us when they find illegal immigrants in the bush with illegal goods.²³¹ 2010 Soccer is bringing development. But indeed, the possibility of sex trafficking are equally high.'

Problem: He reiterates that Ariamsvlei Border Post is too porous to control as it has no gate, fence, sniffer dogs, scanners and poor lighting. In addition, it has limited manpower to closely verify who is passing.²³²

²³¹On 5 February 2010 Luqman Cloete reported of the Namibian Newspaper reported that Police in Karas Region were investigating the circumstances of the death of a woman whose skeleton and clothes had been discovered by a farmer in the veld on his farm 10 kilometres from Ariamsvlei Border Post.

²³²A recent visit to Wanela and Buitepost Border Posts noted on-going installation of huge security scanners

‘The border is open for everything and the criminals can see the loopholes. The few Police here are trying but they are simply not adequate. We only check documentation, which is sometimes wrongly declared. On 10 April, a truck driver just drove through the border without stopping. To make it worse, this border post is 17kilometres to the South African border. 17 kilometres of no man’s land is too long.

Recommendations: Government should quickly move the border closer to the South African border. Before 2010 games, they should improve its structure and provide border security with more advanced security equipment and personnel training’.

Key Informant No. 28: A 43yr-old Female Immigration Officer at Ariamsvlei Border Post for 13 years on 11 April 2009

She admits that, “Yes, the border is too difficult to control. People walk in the bush and cross to South Africa. Too many trucks pass carrying goods and people, especially prostitutes. Yesterday a truck driver passed with 2 girls. He claimed they were his wives; what can we do? But these days, things are changing. An article appeared in the newspapers. It caused police to raid bars/shebeens/clubs along B1 highway. That was good. They chased the prostitutes away.’”

Recommendations: Improvement of the border post, especially its security by increasing and re-training border personnel. Truck drivers should be prohibited from smuggling people.

Key Informant No. 29: A Male Immigration Officer at Ariamsvlei Border Post on 11 April. 2009

He has not seen cases of human trafficking through this border post in his 14-year-experience at the station. However, he sees a lot of Tanzanians, Angolans, Zimbabwean, Kenyan, Congolese,

Nigerian, Malawian, Zambian and South African illegal immigrants. He arrested 26 (21 males/5 females) this year (4 over-stays, 9 invalid passports, 2 forged passports, 4 stolen passports, 1 illegal crossing, 6 others). Some people can't show evidence that the kids endorsed in their passports are theirs. He has seen a lot of Congolese who claim to be refugees in South Africa travelling on forged passports to Angola. One day such a man passed on one passport but the following day another man attempted to pass through the border using the same passport.

Problem: The border post set-up is too poor as people drive through and then come to report to the authorities. Sometimes only 1 police officer is on duty. The computerized system is ineffective while the telephone malfunctions and electricity fails often.

Recommendations: Increased numbers and proper training of border personnel; Shifting of the border to a new and closer location and improved border security system with 2 police-guarded gates.

Key Informant No. 30: A male Youth Leader in Karasburg on 11 April 2009

He has not seen trafficking in persons but has seen slave labour which is rampant in Karasburg. Farmers pick unemployed men to work for food but not pay, while truck drivers take prostitutes all the time.

Another problem he sees often is that in the locations and informal settlements, many children have no family support, while alcohol and drug abuse and teenage pregnancies are rampant. He is concerned about NDF people who make girls drunk at clubs and sexually abuse them. He is also concerned about high levels of family poverty, high school drop-out rates and illegal Zambian and Congolese immigrants.

He says that although prostitution is illegal, there are no laws on which to arrest and prosecute prostitutes. The result is that even if a driver is found having sex with a 16-year-old prostitute in his truck, he cannot be arrested.

Another problem relates to the differing definitions of who a youth is in Namibia. While the constitution defines a youth as anybody between 15 and 30 years old, the National Youth Council puts it between 18 and 35 years. Similarly, the fact that Customary Law has no age limit poses a problem. He believed that government has adequate policies but adequate implementation remains a challenge.

Recommendations: Employment creation and full implementation of national policies.

Key Informant No. 31: A Male Immigration Officer at Noordoewer Border Post

In his 15 years' work at Noordoewer, he had not been able to prove a single case of human trafficking. However, he had seen a lot of illegal crossing involving truck drivers who often pass the border with girls, people travelling on false passports, a lot of drug traffickers and child labourers. He cites the case of a suspected Bangladesh trafficker who had been arrested but could not be proved as a trafficker. He insists that it is too difficult to detect inter-regional travellers, especially bus passengers. He has found that because South Africa demands Angolans to have visas, they oftentimes hide in trucks to enter South Africa, while diamond smugglers cross at night.

Problem: He has observed that the border post has inadequate personnel to deal with over 100 trucks per day and 7,852 travellers in 11 days. It was not uncommon for sick or officers on leave not to be replaced.

Recommendations: Increased border personnel and patrols and more specialized training. It would also be important for trucking companies to register the number of people in trucks.

Key Informant No. 32: A Male Immigration Officer at Noordoewer Border Post

He has seen truck drivers with Kavango boys going to work in farms in Cape Town. 6 minor boys were deported back from South Africa. Some truck drivers are known to drop illegal immigrants before the border after which they pay local people N\$300 to cross them in canoes. Others walk across shallow river points. One man drowned and died.

Recommendation: Improve border controls.

Key Informant No. 33: A Male Truck Driver at Noordoewer Border Post

One of his truck driver colleagues locked 7 Congolese boys in his tool box space. The border officers found them almost suffocating and arrested him.

Problem: Lack of formal public transport is contributing to the problem. Trucks are the main source of transport for travelling mothers and school children. As a result, many bad things happen on the roads. Poverty is another major problem. When drivers are sleeping in their trucks, girls jump in and offer themselves for money.

Recommendations: Just deal with poverty!

Key Informant No. 34: Female Police Officer in Oranjemund Grape Farms

Trafficking of Okavango child-slaves is prevalent in Oranjemund farms. TIP perpetrators recruit and transport 11, 12 and 14-year-old Okavango/Caprivi girls by taxis, trucks, Combis, to baby-mind female farm labourer's babies. Wages are sent to guardians by their transporters. When life becomes unbearable, the girls take sugar daddies. She adds that in other instances, when these children's employers fall sick and/or die, the young girls double as their bosses' sex partners. This way, some get pregnant and/or get STDs and HIV and AIDS. Police notice these trends during their patrols. No foreign children have been seen so far.

Recommendation: Farm-based community awareness programmes should commence. Negligent parents and guardians should be traced and arrested.

Key informant No. 35: A Male Police Inspector at Keetmanshoop Police Station

He says instances of sex trafficking include 16 and 17-year-old Oshikango girls who jump into South African trucks at petrol stations and Take-Away-Food spots and head for BI to Angola and South Africa. Recruiters bring Oshivambo and Okavango youths to work on Oranjemund farms. Others include Zimbabwean street vendors and firearms and drug traffickers.

Key Informant No. 36: A Male Police Chief at Keetmanshoop Police Station

He has been in Keetmanshoop for 8 years but is not sure whether or not sex trafficking exists there. However, as Police Commander, he has arrested many foreign refugees from Angola, Cameroon and Congo DRC hidden in truck cargo going to South Africa but they never included

girls. Sometimes, truck drivers drop their 'human cargo' before the border so they cross through bushes and pick them after the borders. He concedes that it is difficult to monitor trucks at night.

Problem: People bring Okavango people from Rundu to work on farms. 10 to 18-year-old farm workers from neighbouring communities roam the town centre. Truck drivers take young girls too. For instances, he dealt with a case of a girl who accused a driver for raping her after he failed to pay her. Some parents send their kids to beg for money in the streets too. When they get into conflict with the law, Police round them up and take them back to the farms but they return. The problem is so big that a community effort to establish a street kitchen for these children failed.

He is equally worried that the forthcoming **2010 FIFA World Cup Games** have the potential of being bad news for Namibia whose landscape is bound to be used by criminal operators. He cites Ariamsvlei border Post which, as far as he is concerned, is not a proper border post. He asserts that because most bosses often fly in aircrafts rather than cross borders, they have difficulty understanding the magnitude of the problem.

He does not fully understand the current **law on human trafficking**. However, he believes that in case of offenders being apprehended, the Prosecutor can use Common Laws on Movement and Control of People and Control of Squatters Acts to prosecute. He believes the Prevention and Prosecution of Transnational Organized Crime Act (POCA) of 2004 will address TIP when operational. In the meantime, most Police Stations have CID, Traffic Departments, Serious Crime and Drug Enforcement Units, Police Street Patrols and Street Soup Kitchens which can be used to monitor an anti human trafficking programme if launched.

He recommends upgrading of Police Stations, reinforcing Traffic Police to undertake improved patrol operations and upgrading all porous border posts.

Question: He has a serious concern; over the years he has seen numerous studies come and go. Will this be any different?

Key Informant No. 37: A Male Government Ministry Officer in Windhoek

Yes, he knows people who have been brought into Namibia for farm labour, but is not sure whether to classify them as victims of human trafficking as:

1. Angolans and Namibians are family and so Angolan children who work for their Namibian relatives don't usually get paid for their labour;
2. Oshikango is a very busy place, with the smuggling of prostitutes being the 2nd biggest thing happening after drug smuggling. Angolans and South African truck drivers always take girls for prostitution, a thing too few people are willing to speak about as it is a sensitive and hidden issue. Walvis Bay has the potential of being a TIP haven.

Problem: Because Namibia is signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention, she can't turn away political and economic refugees, some of whom have no travel documents; In anticipation of many refugees from DRC, Sudan and Zimbabwe, Namibia renovated Rundu, Katima and Hangwena reception centres and prepared regional teams to receive the refugees before taking them to Osire. However, while reception Centres project awaits funds, refugees are left to find their way to Osire, which they don't. Instead they flock into the cities and towns. In terms of cholera, they are supposed to be quarantined but it is not done. In the meantime, poverty remains a major deterrent to countering human trafficking.

Law: The absence of a comprehensive TIP law is a major missing piece. While Namibia is signatory to Palermo Protocol, and the conventions against Transnational Organized Crime, RCE, CEDAW and the Status of Refugees, she has no adequate law to adequately prevent TIP, protect TIP victims and children, and prosecute and punish TIP perpetrators. He asks, '2010 WC is coming, should something big happen what law can Namibia use'?

Recommendations - Strengthen law enforcement; Beef up Immigration and Customs at ports and borders; MOFA must sensitize other Ministries on Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP); Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems; Review legislation; Create a coordinating body comprising ministries of Information, GECW, Agriculture, Education and Labour; Raise public awareness; Promote freedom of speech; Create a network of Whistle Blowers; Head of state to spearhead Anti TIP campaign; create job opportunities for young people; Fight and regulate alcohol; Strengthen/support poor families with grants; Train more social workers;

Key Informant No. 38: A Male Labour Inspector, Swakopmund

His experience in the Fishing Industry confirms that prostitution in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund is linked to human trafficking as:

1. International fishermen marry young prostitutes and take them to Europe, for what? He challenged the researcher to remain in Swakopmund until Friday afternoon and witness for herself the marriage ceremonies between European old men and Namibian young girls;
2. Sex tourism is increasing;
3. Existence of 12-year-old child farm labourers which contravenes Labour Act 11 of 2007 which prohibits child labour, prosecutes and punishes child employers with a term of 2 years' imprisonment or N\$10,000 fine or both.

4. Child marriages.

Problem - Family poverty; high unemployment rate; high school-drop-outs rate; political unrest; natural disasters in the form of floods and droughts which promote poverty and social and economic exploitation of man by man; laws that are too lenient; and weak law enforcement.

Recommendations: Education and skills training are the key to fight TIP by removing vulnerability, followed by stiffer laws to prosecute perpetrators.

Key Informant No. 39: A Female Criminal Investigation Officer (for 19 years) in Swakopmund

She honestly believes TIP is in Swakopmund as she herself has witnessed:

1. Child labourers on white farms as well as domestic workers and Zimbabwean and Zambian cattle herding boys;
2. Many missing children at the Coast who are never found;
3. Many women are coerced into prostitution;
4. Seamen take girls and never return them; and
5. Old European men marry young girls and take them into exploitation in Europe.

Problem: The biggest challenge she sees is:

1. Alcohol abuse. In 90% of the rape cases, both victims and perpetrators were drunk. Swakopmund has 107,000 people and over 200 sheebins.
2. In Walvis Bay, parents send their daughters to clubs to sell sex and bring money home;
3. Many Chinese traders in Namibia don't have bank accounts;
4. Four mines opened in one year alone, which means more economic and social activities, but inevitably increased possibilities of exploitative activities too.

- Recommendations:**
1. Amend existing laws and enact new ones;
 2. Parents need to be parents again and institute family discipline;
 3. Public sensitization on TIP;
 4. Train and motivate Police so they work harder;
 5. Foreign tourists who break
 6. The law must be pushed;
 7. Create jobs for young people.

Key Informant No. 40: A Male Regional Official in Swakopmund

He only reads TIP in the media, but believes it could easily be a reality. A few years ago it was illegal cigarettes, now it could well be TIP, as:

1. Walvis Bay and Luderitz can easily be TIP entry points;
2. If one moves around in Swakopmund at night he or she sees people roaming around. The question is, what are they doing or looking for?
3. Sex Tourism is rife;
4. Marriages of young girls by old tourists and seamen are very common. Nobody knows exactly where those tourists take their new brides;
5. Young women have been seen on fishing vessels where they are normally not allowed to go;
4. Street vendors sell on commission, they get money only when they get customers, isn't it slave labour?

To him the following issues make the problem more complex:

1. African extended family makes TIP detection very difficult as people may say it is a sister/brother;

2. HIV/AIDS has become a big problem;
3. Durban Harbour has brought new technology; Namibia has no ability to scan huge trucks;
4. Increasing poverty. Independence struggle era sent out a wrong message that everybody would be equal, but now Namibia is a capitalist society without equality. Government cannot distribute wealth.
5. High school drop-out rates;
6. Uncontrolled spread of sheebins and rampant alcohol abuse; and
7. A historical dependency on a pay cheque;

He recommends:

1. Education is the basis of Namibian children; career guidance; ethics; Youth camps;
2. Youth Income generation activities in small scale mining using Euro 7 million to create formal and self employment;
3. Need for a paradigm shift in perceptions;
4. Curb misuse of alcohol by young people. This will require a bold politician who closes sheebins and risks re-election;
5. Namibia is 95% Christian, so churches must join existing and future efforts by introducing youth centres with libraries, netball grounds, sports fields, etc.; and
6. Leaders must commit themselves to serve and prevent Namibian youths from getting lost now.

Key Informant No. 41: A Male Regional Police Officer in Walvis Bay

He believes TIP is happening in Namibia as:

1. In 2004/5 Police came across a Walvis Bay house with Chinese women who said some people had brought into Namibia to work as prostitutes. The women who had no identification documents, desperately wanted to return to their country;
2. Spanish sailors and underage prostitutes can be seen in local bars;
3. There were some young and old Zambian and Zimbabwean illegal immigrants working as street workers. No one knows who brings them into the country. One had disappeared with N\$30,000 from a local businessman. The man was now crying as he could not trace the person;
4. More than 100 stowaways had been found in Walvis Bay Harbour. It was strange to encounter highly educated Congolese, Cameroonians and Angolan male stowaways in a commercial harbour struggling to go to Europe. Last year alone, there were over 100. 6 are currently held in police cells. Their presence on the vessels isn't known until they are found with their feet hanging in the sea. One had his legs amputated. It seems for them it becomes a business venture as they get free food, medical care, flights and no need for lawyers' fees while awaiting deportation;
5. **Missing children** - It seems seamen meet them in town at night and take them. One case is still pending in Swakopmund;
6. Some local gangs take tourists into locations, give them marijuana, cocaine and tap. Police had arrested one Namibian-German speaking guy. He is now in Windhoek with his girl friend.

The following issues are of concern to him:

1. Poverty and search of money;
2. Lack of modern technology makes detection of concealment in containers impossible;
3. Citizen seekers marry Namibian young girls but as soon as they get citizenship, they return to their wives. Such men could be charged for bigamy but it hasn't happened yet;

4. Police are not trained in TIP;
5. There are many drug groups. Some women take young girls in public toilets and drug them; one was arrested;
6. There is no specific Police Unit to deal with missing persons. Some foreigners take young prostitutes, take their money and disappear.
7. There is need for a new law to prohibit citizen-seeking marriages as the anti-trans-national crime law isn't enough.

Recommendations: Train Police in TIP; Law reform; Raise public awareness; Police must concentrate on tourist-based crime; establish a Unit to investigate TIP.

Key Informant No. 42: A Male Port Police Officer in Walvis Bay

Knowledge and TIP Prevalence - He is aware about the existence of TIP as he has heard that:

1. Some people take girls abroad to supposedly study but end in prostitution;
2. There were rumours about prostitutes who go with foreigners after which they rob them of their money. One had been charged for killing and robbing a South African businessman.

Arising Issues:

1. South Africa and Namibia have an agreement on fraud and money laundering but there is none between Angola, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia;
2. 2010 WC is worrying as criminally minded people were likely to do some strange things that would cause some local women and girls to suffer. While in Lubango, in Angola last year, he had been informed that prostitutes had already booked more than 150 hotel rooms in Luanda.

Recommendations:

1. Laws need to change to allow cases to be profiled and offenders arrested and prosecuted;

2. Training of TOTs;
3. Increase police officers;
4. Establish a team work and a code of conduct for tourists;
5. Identify honest, straight people to counter TIP;

Key Informant No. 43: A Male Immigration Officer at Walvis Bay Port

Yes, as far as he is concerned, TIP is happening in Namibia:

1. Chinese women were charged for prostitution;
2. A Russian sailor committed suicide 2 days earlier after Immigration denied him to marry an under-age girl he had just met in a club;
3. Congolese men come, marry local girls, get domicile status, dump their fake wives and bring their wives and family members to earn them money for their stay in the country.

Recommendation: Increased harbour security; Govt must ban night clubs.

Key Informant No. 44: A Male and Female Customs Officers at Walvis Bay Port

Yes, they are aware that TIP is happening in Walvis Bay:

1. People are being taken to UK;
2. They saw a 70-year-old man marry a 20-year-old girl;
3. Sailors from big vessels use small boats to meet and organize transfer of people to the big vessels and take them away;
4. In Katima Mulilo, people cross illegal labourers on Zambezi River in canoes.

Root causes are: 1. Poverty;

2. Eroded morals; girls dress provocatively;
3. Too many orphans; and
4. Poor port patrols resulting in tourist boats going in high seas.

Recommendations:

1. MGECW must sensitize women on TIP;
2. Increased parental control;
3. Government must improve TIP-focused laws;
4. Community leaders must play a bigger role in public awareness;
5. Strengthen and improve port/borders control and monitoring by increasing and training personnel, and introducing advanced security checks and technology; and
6. Improve education system to facilitate jobs creation and human viability;

Key Informant No. 45: A Male Fisheries Inspector at Walvis Bay Port

Yes, possibilities of TIP are endless in Walvis Bay Harbour as:

1. Walvis is a transit route to Angola and Cape Town, which raises concerns for 2010 WC;
2. Namibia has no capacity to patrol the whole coastal area. The result is that Fisheries Observers are supposed to stay on fishing vessels for 30 days to ensure fishermen comply and don't infringe marine rules/regulations, but they don't; and
3. When Fisheries authorities issue fishing licences to fishermen, immigration and customs should be there but they aren't always there.

Recommendations: Stricter laws; effective implementation; more patrol personnel; modern patrol facilities and equipment; cooperation with all stake holders, and more training for patrol personnel.

Key Informant No. 46: A Female Customs Officer at Buitepos Border Post

Yes, TIP can happen. While the Botswana border post is strict, someone people can hide in a truck and pass the Namibian border.

Problem:

1. Border Police are supposed to patrol, guard gates and check all passing vehicles but they too few and sometimes can't manage both sides of the border post. When trucks are many they park far from the border gates making checking difficult.
2. Immigration officers are too few too. Oftentimes only 1 officer is on duty with the consequence that sometimes exit is not stamped in some passports;
3. Lack of modern checking technology.

Recommendations:

1. Improved border patrols;
2. Increase border personnel and training;
3. Commence public awareness.

Key Informant No. 47: A Female Immigration Officer at Buitepos Border Post

Yes, she saw:

1. 5 Zimbabwean and 1 Angolans hiding in trucks; and
2. People with Zambian passports and truck drivers take prostitutes.

Key Informant No. 48: A Male Police officer at Buitepos Border Post

Yes, TIP can happen in Namibia but it is difficult to detect, especially:

1. If perpetrators and victims have legal travel documents. 95% of the truck drivers pass with girls, mostly under-age.
2. Truck drivers are a big problem. In 2006/7, Police found an Angolan man in a container on a truck covered in a mattress and blankets. The driver was not arrested because he said the man jumped on a moving truck without his knowledge.
3. A Zimbabwean women tried to pass without a passport. She tried to bribe him but was turned away.

Problem:

1. The Namibia border post lacks adequate officers;
- 2 Police Officer checking both gates is too hard;
3. Immigration officers are too few too;
4. The border lights have not been working for over 3 years;
5. Lack of modern checking technology; and
6. With truck drivers, HIV can't be curbed.

Recommendations:

More training for law enforcers; introduction of advanced checking technology; and improved border lighting.

Key Informant No. 49: A Male Police Officer at Gobabis Police Station

Yes, he is sure TIP happens in Omaheke: He had

1. Seen people taking small street kids from Damara Block to work on Herero cattle farms as cattle/sheep/goat herders for unpaid work like slaves except food. The recruiters meet the kids in the streets; If the kids ask for pay, they are beaten; They then run away and report to Police; Police take them to the Labour Office; Labour officers summon farmers; Sometimes the kids are taken to Windhoek, Grootfontein and Mariental; they don't inform their parents;
2. Police arrest many illegal Zimbabwean, Zambian, Angolan and Congolese men and women immigrants, brought by truck drivers without proper travel documents; 2 were arrested the week before the interview; 1 is still in police cells; the truck drivers are never arrested;
3. Truck drivers also bring Zimbabwean, Tswana and Zambian prostitutes; Some have valid travel documents, others don't.

Problem: Kids are supposed to be in homes with parents or at school rather than in the streets but they are because of:

1. Poverty, some parents without jobs send their children to search for money in streets;
2. Some parents have died, especially from AIDS, leaving the kids without care.
3. Namibia has no comprehensive laws to adequately deal with TIP;
4. Lack of modern checking technology - no radios, no scanners, no cameras, and no computers.

Recommendation:

Strengthen borders with increased border manpower, improved communication equipment, and introduction of modern checking technology, while Government should discourage foreigners (South African, Zimbabwean, Angolan, Zambian and Congolese) from bringing drugs, especially cannabis into Namibia to destroy citizens, as well as strengthen Immigration and Customs laws.

Key Informant No. 50: A Windhoek Male Ministry of Labour and Social Services Officer

He is sure TIP happens in Namibia but to-date, the Ministry of Labour and Social Services (MLSS) has no specific case except informal information on:

1. Zambian and Angolan kids being in slave labour in Katima Mulilo, Oshikango and Southern farms;
2. Labour Inspectors visited Omaheke 2 weeks earlier and reported children replacing dead parents/grand-parents in slave farm labour;
3. Informante Newspaper report on child slavery cases in the North.

Problem:

1. Poverty in homes;
2. Parental death;
3. Peer pressure;
4. Cultural values and practices which ensure children herd and protect family cattle; and
5. Drugs/Alcohol destroying the country's children/youths.

Recommendations:

1. Creation of an Inter-Ministerial committee to monitor TIP and spearhead anti TIP programmes;
2. Urgent enactment of a comprehensive law on child trafficking;
3. Enactment of a Municipality Law to prohibit children under 18 from entering shebeens;
4. Training of law enforcement agents on TIP;
5. National plans must correspond to effective programme implementation.

Key Informant No. 51: A Male HIV/AIDS Projects Officer at CCN in Windhoek

He believes TIP is happening in Namibia as:

1. Truck drivers are often seen taking prostitutes to South Africa;
2. Recently, Police bust a Cameroonian-run brothel in a Windhoek North Lodge;
3. Former sex workers in his organization's project which provides skills training for former prostitutes had reported that on one occasion when they were still active sex workers in Walvis Bay Port, they had been busy drinking with sailor sex customers in their vessel they discovered that the vessel was moving into the high sea. The sailors hadn't told them they had started their journey beyond the Port;
4. Some parents in Oshikango were reported to be sending their young daughter to truck drivers to bring cash home; and
5. He was aware of some San children trapped in slave labour.

Problem:

1. He believes there is something drastically wrong with the National Social Policy and that the social safety nets are not adequately effective; and
2. As a result, poverty and unemployment are great national challenges;

Known Services: The Council of Churches of Namibia (CCN) has established a skills training project for former sex workers. The project which is being implemented by a Windhoek-based Pentecostal Church, in conjunction with Bern Namibia has trained 6 former prostitutes in bicycle assembling and repairs.

Recommendations: Relevant stakeholders, including Government, must unite to fight sex trafficking in Namibia by embarking on:

1. Public awareness and community education;
2. Establishment of victims' rehabilitation projects;
3. Develop and enact a comprehensive anti-human trafficking law;
4. Train more social and primary health care workers; and
5. Assess existing youth programmes to determine their effectiveness.

Key Informant No. 52: A Female Child-Based NGO Officer in Windhoek

She believes human trafficking happens in Namibia as evidenced by:

1. Many people, especially members of the working class, take children from relatives in less privileged families on the Angolan side under the pretext of providing them with education but instead make them work as domestic workers, cattle herders and farm labourers;
2. Her organisation, which is child-focussed, works with a group of prostitutes in Katutura who tell alarming stories of internal sex trafficking;
3. A suspected trafficked Somali woman and her 2 kids are still in Windhoek Central prison;
4. Recent death, in Namibia, of an Angolan woman whose husband had turned into a drug mule;
5. Media reported (Informante Newspaper) Police arrest of Namibian girls working as escorts in London's Sex Industry. Upon arrival in London, the girls who had been recruited by Au Pair employment Agency and included daughters of some prominent citizens had phoned the contacts their recruiters had provided them only to find themselves in brothels; Some had already been deported back;
6. Another media reported case involved a Namibian girl who had dropped out of school to marry a Nigerian drug trafficker who coerced her to join the drug trafficking ring. He eventually dragged both her unemployed son and mother into the drug courier business. She was later

arrested and sentenced to a jail term but when she completed her prison sentence, her husband had long vanished.

Problem: She sees a number of root issues:

1. A skewed education system that annually drops youths in the cold;
2. Donor dependence for projects implantation which leaves gaps in protection programmes, and makes sustainable planning and continuity difficult;
3. Lack of programmes specializing on human trafficking;
4. A general public ignorance about the problem;
5. High poverty and school-drop-out levels which drive women and children into sex trafficking;
6. TV-driven materialism and fashion;
7. High family breakdown and parental neglect;
8. Alcohol and drug abuse;
9. High teenage pregnancies;
10. Lack of a comprehensive nation plan on children;
11. Inadequate strategies on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC); and
12. Disjointed and uncoordinated CSOs efforts.
13. Inadequate Laws:
 - 13.1. The current Child Protection Bill of 1960 is no longer relevant to the Namibian situation. A new Child Protection Bill is in the works;
 - 13.2. Human trafficking is covered by the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) of 2004;
 - 13.3. Combating of Rape, Liquor and Domestic Violence acts don't cover TIP;

Service delivery: Her organisation has a child crisis phone line which is central to child trafficking victims recovery, rehabilitation and family reunion. It also runs 5 Gender-Based-Violence-Victim Shelters countrywide.

Recommendation: Civil Society Organisations (CSO) should support Government and advocate for strengthened legislation; public awareness raising; improved collaboration between stakeholders; establishment of safe-houses for victims; formation of a dynamic national committee on human trafficking; a comprehensive research on human trafficking in the whole country; formulation of a national strategic plan on human trafficking; and strengthening of referral systems.

Key Informant No. 53: A Male United Nations (UN) Officer, Windhoek

He believes contemporary TIP takes the character of profits maximization in the form of slave labour, sex slavery and human disposal, where slave contrabands in deplorable conditions fall in the nets. Whereas it is highly prevalent, the issue remains little unknown and understood, with little or no national statistics available. In Africa it takes the form of African women and young prostitutes in cities like Johannesburg and Cape Town and in developed countries. This is illustrated by interred Chinese cadavers on exhibitions in a Paris Museum.

Problem: He singles out high unemployment, poverty, inequality and lack of educational opportunities, peer pressure and the role of the media in moral degradation that targets 15 to 30 year-old women, girls and children as the major causes of the problem. He cites the recent 20,000 employees laid off at NAMDEB. He warns that if nothing is done to prevent the perpetrators of sex trafficking using the 2010 FIFA World Cup Games in South Africa to exploit vulnerable women, young girls and children, there will be a long term negative impact as South

Africa may not be interested in policing prostitution mainly due to a limited supply of human and financial resources as well as poor health programmes.

Laws/Policies: He is not aware of comprehensive laws and policies on human trafficking.

Services: Neither is he aware of any serious training or service delivery programmes anywhere.

Recommendations: Sensitisation of the general public as well as law and policy makers; keep children in schools; create youth employment; utilise capital human resource in the country; address human trafficking cause roots, specifically poverty, unemployment, unviable health programmes; CSO should establish safe houses; conduct a study on the transport sector including the role of truck drivers; the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) should address porous borders; monitor newspaper human trafficking advertisements; Encourages SARPCCO to bring SADC Countries together to fight human trafficking; special attention should be given to internal trafficking; special efforts should be made to train law enforcements; improve labour laws; formulate and enact a law that explicitly outlaws human trafficking as a whole; African regional integration should not ignore the impact of human trafficking on the region; Encourage African leaders to develop a willingness to give up a piece of their sovereignty for the sake of their people; Plan for 2010; Improve Media coverage; Encourage CSO to create Victim safe houses/zones; and government to create inter-ministerial cooperation.

Key Informant No. 54: A Male UNFPA Officer, Windhoek

He concedes sex trafficking has become a prevalent global problem. He has read about and seen African sex slaves in European cities.

Problem: He attributes its growth to youth social/economic vulnerability that is promoting increased prostitution levels, rapidly growing human migration, the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

reproductive health complications, inadequate TIP definition, internal/external TIP, lack of data, lack of adequate information, the 2010WC and regional integration links, inadequate laws, policies and service delivery programmes.

Recommendations: Someone must spearhead a national campaign on trafficking in persons, supported by a group of significant others. Human trafficking as a whole ought to be integrated in the national agenda. There should be a media-led public sensitization, monitoring of TIP adverts, improve laws and policies, commence prevention programme and deter child/youth vulnerability.

Key Informant No. 55: A Female Child-focused International NGO Officer in Windhoek

She knows that TIP definitely happens in Namibia. She believes that the Police know but they don't know what to do about it. For instance, there are Zambian cattle herders/child labourers in the country; Internet features young girls from towns such as Walvis Bay in European prostitution; San kids are involved in exploitative labour; South African kids are working in Namibian organized crime; A Forensic Investigator talked about a German man who brings German boys for sex on a farm in Namibia.

Problem: The main problem is high vulnerability to poverty, inequality, unemployment, high rates of school-drop-out and teen pregnancies, inadequate human and financial capacity, lack of adequate skills, and poor management.

Laws/Policies: There is no comprehensive law on TIP as POCA is inadequate; neither are there proper policies to prevent TIP.

Services: Her NGO is a capacity-building organisation. It provides technical assistance. It submitted a proposal to an international development agency to commence an anti TIP law enforcement training programme in Namibia. In the meantime, it will train 15 social workers, 15 police officers, 13 Justices, 9 prosecutors, 3 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), Child Line (CL) and Women and Child Protection Units (WCPUs) in collaboration with the Ministries of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW), Home of Home Affairs (MOHA), Justice Safety and Security, National Planning, MOI and UN Agencies.

Recommendations: Namibia should have a specific strategy on the prevention and protection of women, young adolescents and children during the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In addition, Namibia should enact a specific law on TIP; Implement anti TIP programmes; Reduce poverty and vulnerability by increasing life opportunities through creating youth employment and sensitise general public on TIP.

Key Informant No. 56: A Male Law Reform Officer in Windhoek

Understanding TIP: He understands trafficking in persons as transporting a person from their place of comfort to a place of control and exploitation under false pretences for sexual gratification, drug/small arms couriers, child sex/pornography and sometimes and body parts removal for sale.

Prevalence: He strongly believes that TIP is happening in Namibia. However, due to lack of substantive body of evidence (data) one can't explicitly say so with certainty. Cases in point include:

1. A South African truck driver promised to take a young girl from the North to University in Windhoek; Upon arrival in Windhoek, he pretended his bank card was malfunctioning; he took her to Johannesburg, raped her, took her to a SANGOMA; The SANGOMA felt sorry and helped her phone a friend in Ondangwa; members of her family, working together with friends and Police rescued her;
2. Another two truck driver took 2 Swakopmund girls to South Africa, raped them abandoned them there only to be deported back to Namibia months later;
3. A Somali Woman and two kids she claims to be her kids but are not known to be, are still in prison in Windhoek; The possibility of those being taken for body organ removal are very high; but the Ministry of Justice can't interfere in social work.
4. Zambian/Angolan and San child-farm-labourers/cattle herders/Charcoal burners are the order of the day. He has a problem with NASOMA Report which claims to have investigated trafficking of prostitutes at Oshikango Border Post but is actually on prostitution. Prostitution can not necessarily be concluded to be trafficking in persons.

The problem: As far as he is concerned:

1. **Lack of understanding** - The Namibian society doesn't really know much about TIP. So people don't understand it; they think it is an external problem, specific to other countries such as Angola and Zambia; He believes Namibia is key in a possible organized crime chain between Angola, Brazil, Columbia, Congo DRC, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
2. **TIP deep causes** include social and economic disadvantage and vulnerability as well as the country's porous borders need to be addressed. For example, Namibia's borders with its neighbouring countries of Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa stretch approximately 800,000sqkm. That is a lot of area to effectively control.

3. Inadequate Laws/policies: He is aware that POCA which was enacted in 2004 has only 2 paragraphs on TIP: It criminalizes TIP and punishes perpetrators with N\$1million fine and 50 years jail, but isn't adequate enough to provide TIP victims assistance, repatriation and child coverage as per UN Palermo protocol. He is also aware that the Palermo Protocol places responsibility on the victim receiving country rather than on the sending country. More importantly, while Namibia has ratified and signed most of the UN Conventions, it has no specific policy on TIP and has no framework on compilation of UN reports.

Recommendations: As it is not possible to build a beautiful law without a problem, it is necessary to involve Central Statistics Office (CSO) in building data collection and compilation capacity so that the country creates a threshold of knowledge, on the basis of which it can then enact adequate legislation, develop appropriate policies, train law enforcement agents for improved service delivery and embark on public awareness.

Key Informant No. 57: A Female Faith-based International HIV/AIDS programme Officer in Windhoek

Prevalence: She believes that TIP is prevalent at both the African and Namibian levels.

Problem: TIP existence and magnitude have not yet been quantified.

Causes: The causes of TIP lay in many people's social and economic vulnerability, poverty, inadequate educational opportunities, natural disasters, regional political instability.

Recommendations: Find out how many FBOs already address TIP and engage them in the solution seeking and interventions, as well as prepare for possible 2010WC negative social Impact in terms of TIP and create life saving opportunities for the majority of the people, and train for capacity building.

Key Informant No. 58: A Male Interpol Officer in Windhoek

Understanding: He understands TIP as servitude and modern slavery. He highlights incidents in Kenya where syndicates trick parents on promises of jobs for their children but take them into sexual exploitation and slavery in Europe. According to him, Thailand is the greatest prostitution destination. In Namibia, TIP takes the form of mainly truck drivers taking young and old prostitutes without travel documents for sex. Prostitutes have been trafficked for ages. They go with their own consent, but often times are raped along the way, after which they are abandoned.

While truck drivers are normally not allowed to transport passengers they usually do anyway. And because they are not allowed to travel with their wives, they need prostitutes. But how does one counsel truck drivers? They are on the move all the time, driving through porous borders such as Ariamsvlei border post which is 17km away from the South African border of Nakop. The only problem is that if they are taking kids below 18 years, that is serious because that is TIP and therefore a crime against the law. However, many women also go beyond their borders through marriages only to be abused and exploited, but how can anybody accuse a man of trafficking his wife? That is difficult. After all, African parents traditionally sell their daughters. Although there is no clear evidence of organized crime, high seas stowaways have become a common feature.

He is worried about 2010 World Cup, as thousands of young prostitutes are already migrating to the big market in South Africa.

Problem: He believes the main push factors of TIP are poverty and lack of job and educational opportunities. He sees education as the greatest equalizer but each year too many youths drop out of school and wonders where government responsibility is? Uneconomically viable youths seek modern life's glamour and in the process fall victims of peer pressure. He emphasizes the fact that 'it takes a village to raise a child' and 'no prostitute was born a prostitute but prostitutes are merely products of society'.

Laws/Policies: He knows no specific law on TIP in Namibia, while in the whole of the SADC region it is only Mozambique and Zambia which have comprehensive TIP laws. Government social protection policies are too weak while there is no specific policy on TIP, which makes formal complaints by TIP victims difficult.

Services: He knows no service delivery mechanism in place

Recommendations: Re-define TIP; reinforce all border posts; train law enforcement agents; raise public awareness; remove the social economic problems that facilitate TIP; encourage victims to complain; and create reliable data.

Key Informant No. 59: A Female Judiciary Officer in Windhoek

Understanding: This Judiciary Officer understanding TIP as the illegal movement and transportation of people for exploitation purposes.

Existence: TIP in Namibia has been worrying her for some time:

1. Only two weeks ago, she attended an international working group meeting in Europe on TIP;
2. Namibian young girls and women are trafficked for sexual exploitation while San boys are trafficked for farm labour. She pointed to the case of a German Austrian who came to Namibia,

met a young girl, married her and took her to Austria where he turned her into a sex slave in the streets. The girls later run to the Namibian Embassy, was rescued and returned to Namibia. While there is a general belief that a husband can't traffic his wife, the question is, what was the ultimate reason for that man marrying that girl?

3. In a recent incident at Katima Mulilo's Wanela Border post, border personnel arrested two suspected Zambian male traffickers while trying to cross 10 Congolese men into Namibia but for lack of a trafficking law under which to prosecute them, could only charge them for illegal migration and sent them back into Zambia.

Problem: As far as she is concerned, Namibia has a lot of work to do on TIP. On the one hand, the current TIP definition is inappropriate, while on the other, for most people with little or no life opportunities are susceptible to trafficking by false informants who tell them of great opportunities outside the country. So socially and economically vulnerable people fall prey to such false informants and voluntarily leave the country even on their own expenses only to find, upon arrival, a totally different predicament. She passionately states that she can argue in any Court of Law that poverty plays a major role in TIP; that for anybody to venture into the unknown, they can only be pushed by a dire need; Most Africans come from disadvantaged backgrounds which expose them to exploitation; any avenues of opportunity raises hope; most crime offenders are school-drop-outs aged 16-18yrs, what is referred to as 'Chuka shops boys'.

Laws/Policies: She bemoans lack of a specific law on TIP in Namibia as POCA isn't enough; inadequate social economic policies to protect the majority of Namibians citizens against TIP; and a gross general ignorance on TIP;

Services: She knows no services to counter TIP in the country but points out that the Association of African Prosecutors is one effective platform which could be used to address TIP.

Recommendations: Define TIP in the Namibian context; Launch a public awareness/sensitization against TIP; Target socially/economically disadvantaged segments of society who are prone to TIP with adequate information; Engage CSOs for public information dissemination; Mobilize human/financial resources to counter TIP; Train the Judiciary on TIP; Wage a war on poverty and social and economic vulnerability to high unemployment/school-drop-out rates, alcohol/drug abuse; Create youth recreational centres and take Chuka shop boys for skills training; Improve capacity among Policy and law makers; Ensure safe tourism; and Utilize the African Prosecutors Association (APA) to address TIP in SADC countries.

Key Informant No. 60: A Female International Labour Organisation Officer in Windhoek

Her organization identifies child trafficking for sexual exploitation as the worst form of child labour.

Namibia is, to a small extent, a TIP country of origin. A Rapid Assessment on Child Trafficking her organization undertook indicated that 88 out of 289 children had been trafficked and that trafficking in persons in Namibia involves family members. As a little girl growing up in her village in Caprivi, she used to see many Zambians brought as cattle herders and domestic workers. They worked under very difficult circumstances, were hardly paid but couldn't go back to wherever they had come from mainly because many of them had been brought at a tender age and couldn't identify their original homes and relatives.

Problem: TIP in Namibia occurs under diminished expectations. Whereas government does not regard TIP as a major issue, her organization identifies poverty as a key contributing factor, while porous borders, HIV/AIDS and OVCs aggravate the problem.

Another major problem is contradicting definitions. While UNCRC defines a child as a person up to 18yrs old, ILO convention 182 outlaws the Worst Forms of Child labour between 6-14 years, while the Namibian Labour Law No. 11 of 2007 permits child work between 14 and 16 years except for night and underground work;

Currently available Rapid Assessment findings are inadequate as they are too short term and too unclear. Gender inequality; cultural issues; lack of adequate awareness; 2010WC and Angola COSAFA are great Challenges.

Laws: While Namibian Labour Law No. 11 of 2007 outlaws Child Labour, and Namibia has ratified ILO Convention Nos.138 on the Minimum Age, and 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour respectively, it remains without an adequate law on TIP since POCA makes no mention of children.

Policies: ILO, in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Social Services carried out 4 rapid assessments on Child Labour (2007), Child Trafficking (2007), Children in Charcoal Production (2007) and Children used by Adults to Commit Crimes (2008). In 2004, a Project Advisory Committee was formed chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Services which facilitated formulation of a National Action Plan on Child Labour. Two weeks earlier, ILO/IPEC opened an office in the MOLSS to implement SADC Gender Protocol.

Recommendations: Redefine TIP in the African concept; Enact a stand-alone anti-TIP Legislation; Commission anthropological studies on child trafficking to ascertain the problem; Embark on massive public awareness raising on 2010WC and COSAFA Games in Angola; Develop national policies and laws on safe tourism; Strengthen the media for public sensitization; Promote safe advertising; Implement SADC Gender Protocol; SADC countries develop uniform TIP laws/policies; Engage strategic Civil Society Organizations stakeholders and Reinforce the border posts.

3. Information from 7-Focus Group Discussion Meetings

Focus Group Discussion Meeting No. 1: Luderitz

1.1. Venue: A Casino in the city

1.2. Date and Time: 7 June 2007 at 1400 hours

1.3. 12 Participants: The Researcher

The researcher's companion

Research Assistant Florida

35-year-old Female Night Club/Gay Hair Salon Proprietor

Bar-girl, 17-years-old

Male Prostitute, 35-year-old dry queen Bennie

Male Prostitute, 21-year-old dry queen Jerome

Male Prostitute, 22-year-old dry queen

Female Prostitute, 25-year-old aggressive Natasha

Female Prostitute, 25-year-old South African crying homeless

Female Prostitute, 40-year-old weeping woman

Male Prostitute Pimp, 26-year-old South African ex prisoner

1.4. Emerging Issues: The group agreed that the situation of young people in Luderitz was bleak as Luderitz has nothing much to offer young people as both employment and recreational opportunities are lacking. As a result, young people just roam in bars and shebeens, drinking, fighting and stealing; The school-drop-out rate is very high; Teenage pregnancy is rampant; Family break-down is the order of the day; The City is characterized by gangsters, alcohol and drugs, gayism, violence, crime, and male and female prostitution; New girls daily arrive, mainly by trucks from the North, Windhoek and Keetmanshoop, while others head for South Africa; and 1.4.8. Whereas human trafficking is not yet visible it is rumoured that some seamen and truck drivers are taking girls outward-bound.

1.5. Conclusion - Lack of adequate knowledge and awareness about trafficking in persons as a social activity, makes it difficult for the community to know its existence. There are indications that it could already be happening.

Focus Group Discussion Meeting No. 2: Walvis Bay

2.1. Venue: A Casino along 5th Street, Walvis Bay

2.2. Date and Time: 27 June 2007 at 1300 hour

2.3. 10 Participants: The Researcher

Researcher's companion

Researcher assistant

A Bar-man

Six prostitutes - 3 teenagers, 3 adults with 3 children, 2 toddlers and
1 baby)

2.4. Emerging Issues:

a) Currently, 5th Street is Walvis Bay's prostitution hub;

b) Over 100 prostitutes operate in 3 large brothel houses, 3 night clubs and 2 casinos. They include 3-generation prostitutes comprising a grandmother, a daughter and a grandchild;

c) Vices in the area include street gangs, gays, alcohol, drugs, violence and crime;

d) HIV is rampant;

e) Some people are always recruiting young girls and taking them to South Africa and Europe. Most of them are daughters of the prostitutes. They never come back and are suspected to end up in prostitution houses in far off countries.

2.5. Conclusion - Participants in this discussion group believe a number of their colleagues and some of their children have been victims of sex trafficking by seamen, truck drivers, employment recruitment agencies and other prostitutes.

Focus Group Discussion Meeting No. 3: Windhoek

3.1. Venue: A Lodge in Windhoek

3.2. Date and Time: 27 July 2007 at 1600 hours

3.3. 8 Participants: The researcher

Researcher's companion

Two research guides (a man and his wife)

4 foreign prostitutes:

- 26-years-old Zambian (group leader)

- 25-year-old Zimbabwean traumatized prostitute

- 22-year-old Zambian traumatized prostitute, both who claim

Were raped by the infamous Windhoek serial killer

- 18-year-old Zambian very pretty but malnourished prostitute

3.4. Emerging Issues:

a) 20 foreign prostitutes from Botswana, Zambian and Zimbabwe led by 26-year-old

Zambian prostitute live in this lodge, paying N\$75 per day each;

b) They rival the Windhoek North-based Angolan, Congolese and West-Africans;

c) They are all illegal migrants;

d) Older prostitutes recruit younger girls from their countries to earn them better money;

e) These women suffer gross violence, perpetrated by customers, local prostitutes themselves, Law Enforcement Agents and their embassy male officers. Three claim to have been raped by the Windhoek serial killer. They are desperate, and wish for political leadership intervention.

4.5. Conclusion - Older members of their group deceive younger girls in their countries and bring them to Namibia for prostitution.

Focus Group Discussion Meeting No. 4: Oshakati

4.1. Venue: A shebeen in the Location

4.2. Date and Time: 28 April 2007 at 1500 hours

4.3. 12 Participants: Researcher

Researcher's companion

A trafficked victim research assistant

Namibian male prostitution/pimp/diamond-cross-border-smuggler to
Angola

3 male sex customers (an ex-murder convict, a drunkard and a student nurse)

5 Street female prostitutes

4.4. Emerging Issues

a) African men need many women because they can't be satisfied by one woman and need sex until they die;

b) Men go to younger girls because older women get tired too quickly and bore men;

c) Men must always be in control of women; if a man tells a woman to move, she must move, but in order to control women this way, men must have money. Young men don't have enough money with which to control women. That is why young women are going to old men, and

young men are frustrated. So men who have no money to control women go to kids because unlike older women who demand houses and cars, young girls don't ask questions, they are satisfied with little;

d) The male student nurse informed the group that he learnt to go for sex in the streets and bars when he was a soldier in the army;

e) Alcohol is having a great impact on the spread of prostitution and HIV/AIDS;

f) Truck drivers are trafficking young girls to Oshikango and Angola all the time.

4.5. Conclusions

a) Sex trafficking (trafficking for prostitution) and HIV are increasing;

b) There is an urgent need for cultural values change to reinforce monogamy; and

c) HIV/AIDS must be taught in churches since Namibia is 95% church-going.

Focus Group Discussion Meeting No. 5: Oshikango

5.1. Venue: Popular night club in the Town Centre

5.2. Date and Time: 30 April 2007 at 1430 hours

5.3. 17 Participants: The researcher

Researcher's Companion

Research Assistant

8 teenage prostitutes

2, 28-year-old male pimps

1 female pimp

3 Police Officers (2 male and 1 female)

5.4. Emerging Issues

- a) A truck driver brought the 8 teenage prostitutes from Noordoewer to Oshikango, after which he and his friends used them for sex, abandoned them and proceeded to Luanda;
- b) They are now pimped by two 28-year-old male pimps who control them in an incomplete room; and
- c) Three Police Officers who were investigating a very recent murder of a prostitution customer confirmed that truck drivers and cross border trades always bring young girls to Oshikango and take some to Angola.

4.5. Conclusion: Sex Trafficking is rife. It manifests, primarily in the form of young prostitutes from Namibia into Angola and is mainly perpetrated by truck drivers, cross border traders and law enforcement agents from the Angolan side of the border.

Focus Group Discussion Meeting No. 6: Karasberg²³³

6.1. Venue: Karasberg Hotel in the Town Centre

6.2. Date and Time: 11 April 2009 at 1900 hours

6.5 Participants: The researcher
Researcher's Companion
Male youth leader
2 female students

6.4. Emerging Issues:

- a) In Karasberg slave labour is rampant. Farmers pick unemployed men and take them to work for food. They are not paid cash for their labour. Truck drivers are often seen picking prostitutes and taking them away with them. In the locations and informal settlements, most children have

²³³Focus group meeting held on 11 April 2009 at 1900 hours

no family support. There is too much alcohol/drug abuse and teenage pregnancies. Military officers often make girls drunk at clubs and thereafter sexually abuse them. There is a lot of family poverty, high school- drop-out rate and too many illegal Zambian and Congolese immigrants.

b) Although prostitution is illegal, there are no laws on the basis of which to arrest and prosecute prostitutes. The complication is that in Namibia a youth is defined as anybody between 15 and 30 years old, and while National Youth Council puts it between 18 and 35 years, Customary Law remains without any age limit. While government has policies in place, poor implementation pauses a serious limitation. Thus, even if a 16-year-old prostitute is found doing sex with a truck driver in a truck, arrest them becomes difficult.

6.5. Conclusion and Recommendation: Sex trafficking is fuelled by lack of life saving opportunities for young people. Government should create opportunities for young people and fully implement existing national policies meant to support and protect poor families.

Focus Group No. 7: 6 Walvis Bay Port Prostitutes

7.1. Venue: Prostitutes house in 5th Street, Walvis Bay Port

7.2. Date and Time: 16 April 2009 at 1600 hours

7.3. Participants: The researcher and 6 prostitutes

7.4. Emerging Issues:

Yes, TIP happens; Sea sex customers always take girls on vessels; they meet them, marry them and take them away, never to come back; One girls went recently; One of the 6 girls had been taken to Angola and returned; she planned to go by ship again next week; The one who had been taken to Johannesburg by truck drivers with her friend in Sept 2000 at 16 years didn't think she

was trafficked; she said she had just gone and had sex with the men at will; They confirmed Russian seaman who had committed suicide after Immigration denied him to marry and take a young girl 2 days earlier.

7.5. Conclusion: Sex trafficking and prostitution cannot be stopped unless government creates jobs for unemployed school leavers and school drop outs.

Appendix V: List of the World's Nations affected by Trafficking-in-Persons By Functions and Protection Measures

Country	Status	CSEC Prevalence	Links	Laws
AFRICA – 45				
Algeria	Wars	Origin	Child soldiers/sex slaves	Inadequate
Angola ^{s234}	Civil War	Origin	South Africa	Inadequate
Benin		Origin/Destination	BurkinaFaso/Coted'Ivoire/Togo/Cameroon/Gabon/Nigeria/Arab	Inadequate
Burundi	Civil War	Origin	Belgium	Inadequate
Botswana	Stable	Origin	South Africa	Inadequate
Burkina Faso		Origin/destination	Togo	Inadequate
Cameroon		Origin	Chad	Inadequate
Congo CRC	War	Origin/destination	Chad	Inadequate
Chad		Origin/transit/destination	Sudan/CRC/Niger/Libya/Nigeria/Cameroon	Inadequate
Cote d'Ivoire		Origin/transit/destination	UK/Belgium-4-8year maids	Inadequate
Congo (DRC)	Civil Was	Origin	Zambia, Europe, South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi	Inadequate
Djibouti		Origin		Inadequate
Egypt		Origin	Crisis 4m+ child cheap labourers; Egyptian prostitutes in Zambia	Inadequate
Equatorial Guinea		Origin		Inadequate
Ethiopia	Civil Wars	Origin-100,000 workers	13+year old girls to Europe	Inadequate
Eritrea	Civil Wars	Origin - child soldiers	Ethiopia/Eritrea war	Inadequate
Gabon		Origin	Benin	Inadequate
Gambia		Origin/destination	Ghana	Inadequate
Ghana		Origin - Fertish Priests	8-10yrs Burkina/Gambia	Inadequate
Guinea Bissau	Cs/pros	Origin/transit/destination	Sierra Leone/Liberia	Inadequate
Kenya		Origin/Destination	Europe/Rwanda/Uganda	Inadequate
Lesotho	High HIV	Origin/Transit – textile in	South Africa	Inadequate
Liberia	Civil Wars	Origin/Destination	Child soldiers Guinea	Inadequate
Madagascar		Origin	Reunion/Mauritius	Inadequate
Malawi	High Crisis	Origin	South Africa/Zambia	Inadequate
Mali	Civil strife	Origin/transit/destination	Mauritania-nomad slaves	Inadequate
Mauritania		Origin/Destination	Qatar/United Arab Emirates Sheikhs Mali nomad slaves/camel jockeying	Inadequate
Mauritius	Stable	Origin 11-13yr girls	Rodrigues Island	Inadequate
Morocco		Origin	Tens of thousands urban child prostitutes	Inadequate
Mozambique	Civil wars	Origin 8-17yr girls organs	South Africa	Inadequate
Namibia	Liberation War	Transit	Angola/Zambia/DRC	Inadequate
Niger		Origin	Labour in Quarry/Chemical Indus	Inadequate
Nigeria	Conflicts	Origin/Destination	Gabon/Italy/UK/USA/Saudi Arabia Holland	Inadequate
Rwanda	Civil Wars	Origin	France/Belgium/Italy/Dar	Inadequate
Senegal		Origin/Transit	Europe, France	Inadequate
Sierra Leone	Civil Wars	Origin-soldiers/sex slaves	3million n10/14yr kids in East	Inadequate
Somalia	Civil Wars	Origin	Ethiopia/USA/Nods/Arabs	Inadequate
South Africa	High HIV	Origin/Transit/Destination	Angola/Lesotho/ZambiaZimbabwe/Tanzania/DRC/Uganda/Swaziland/Kenya/Singapore/Chine/Israel/Europe/Indians/Nigeria/Russia	Inadequate
Swaziland	High HIV	Origin	South Africa	Inadequate
Sudan	Civil War	Origin/Destination	Uganda/Algeria –child soldiers/sex slaves	Inadequate
Tanzania	High HIV	Origin/Destination	Rwanda/Burundi/Zambia/South Africa	Inadequate
Togo		Origin	Benin/Nigeria	Inadequate
Uganda	Civil Wars High HIV	Origin/Destination	Europe Sudan/Algeria -11-15yr sex slaves child soldiers 1500 street kids	Inadequate
Zambia	High HIV	Origin/Transit/Destination	Europe/DRC/Malawi/Tanzania/Rwanda/South Africa/Namibia/Somalia/Thailand/Zimbabwe/Burundi/Nigeria	Inadequate
Zimbabwe	High HIV	Origin/Transit	Zambia/Tanzania/Namibia/South Africa	Inadequate

²³⁴Countries that are signatory to the August, 1996 Stockholm Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People

Country	Status	CSEC prevalence	Links	Laws
EUROPE -13				
Austria	s EU	Transit/destination	Many African/Eastern European girls are trafficked here	Yes
Belgium	s EU	Transit/destination	Brazilian/African/Eastern Europe 12/14 girls found	Yes
France	s EU	Transit/destination	Africans, Thais, Greece, Turkey, Colombia	Inadequate
Germany	s EU	Transit/destination	13/15/18 yr Russian /Czech/Ukrainian/Africans/Macedonia	Inadequate
Ireland	s EU	Destination	Nigeria/Romania/DRC/Libya/Algeria/Kosovo Albanians teenagers, Zambia	Inadequate
Italy	s EU	Transit/destination	Albania/Turkey/Eastern Europe/Africa/Asian prostitutes/domestics	Yes
Liechtenstein	EU	Transit	Russia/Italy/Colombia crime syndicates	
Malta	s EU	Origin	Britain	
Netherlands	s EU	Transit/destination	5/8/12/15yr old Central/Eastern Europe/Africans	Yes
Portugal	s EU	Destination	Brazilians/Colombian/Eastern Europeans	
Spain	s EU	Transit/destination		
Switzerland	s EU	Transit/destination		
UK	s EU	Transit/destination	12/15yr Eastern European/ Chinese/African girls in bondage/voodoo	Yes
NORDIC -5				
Denmark	s EU	destination	Eastern Europe/Africa	Yes
Finland	s EU	Destination	Estonia/Africa	Yes
Luxembourg	s EU	Transit		Yes
Norway	s EU	Destination	Trafficking on increase in the North	
Sweden	s EU	Destination	Eastern Europe (Latvia)/Africa	Yes
E/EUROPE-6				
Czech	s War	origin/transit/destination prostitution legal	15/18yr Slovakia gypsies/Bulgaria/Belarus/Russia /Ukraine/Moldova/Slovakia in sex tourism	Yes
Hungary	s	Origin/transit/destination	Ukraine/Russia/Romania/Moldova/Serbia	Yes
Poland	s	Origin/transit/destination	Ukraine/Bulgaria/Romania/Modova/Czech/Afghan/Lithuania/Vietnamese/Slovakia – \$20,000 per person	Yes
Turkey	s	Origin/transit/destination	Pakistani/Iranian/Bangladeshi/Ukraine/Moldova/Russia -	
Greece	s	Origin/transit/destination	thousands of Eastern European/Asian/Albania/Macedonian/Uzbekistan/Kazakhstan/Armenia/Iraq	poor laws
Macedonia	s	Origin	Greece/Germany	
EAST ASIA				
20- Australia	s Pacific-Rich	Origin/destination	Thailand/Africa	Yes
Myanmar	s Dictator	Origin/transit	20/30,000 prostitutes trafficked to Thailand per annum	No laws
Cambodia	s	Origin/transit/destination	8-17yr old prostitutes in Sex tourism- Khmer/Vietnamese -14,725 prost.	Yes
China	s	Origin/destination	USA/UK/Belgrade/Czech/Japan/Hungary/Philippines/South Africa	
Mekong		Origin	6-12yr old girls traffick victims	
S/China	s	Origin	500 girls trafficked from Yunnan Province alone	
E/China		Origin	'Snakeheads' charge \$60,000 per person to USA; \$45,000 to UK	No laws
Hong Kong	s	Destination		
Taiwan		Destination		
Indonesia	s	Origin/destination	Brunei/Hong Kong/South Korean/Singapore/Saudi Arabia/Taiwan ex Java/Sumatra/Jarkata/Sulawesi Islands. Many little girls from East Timor in slavery in West Timor as sex/maid slaves	
Japan	s Rich	Origin/destination	USA/South Africa/Russian/Eastern Europe girls – mass pornography/sex tourism	Laws
Korea	s	Origin	mass porno websites	
Laos	s	Origin	Thailand	
Malaysia	s	Destination	19-25yr old female prostitutes trafficking	Laws
Mongolia	s	Origin	Asia/Eastern Europe	No laws
N/Zealand	s	Origin/destination	6/8,000 prostitutes; 12yr old Thai girls	Laws
Philippines	s 4 th pros	Origin/transit/destination	60,000-600,000 6+yr child prostitutes – 4 th of 6 sex tourism/porno countries -China/USA/Europe	
Singapore		Origin/destination	China/Thailand/Malaysia	
Thailand	s	Origin/transit/destination	+2million children/girls sold into slavery Taiwan/Singapore/Malaysia	Law
Vietnam	s	Origin	6,000+ girls/women sold to China/Thailand/Switzerland/France/	Law
BALTICS -14				
Armenia		Origin	Greece/Uzbekistan/Kazakhstan/Albania/Iraq	
Azerbaijan		Origin		
Belarus		Origin/transit		
Estonia	s	Origin/transit/destination	of the 2,000 prostitutes, 50% are little girls	
Kazakhstan		Origin	15yr old girls	No laws
Kyrgyzstan	Poverty	Origin	Prostitution/trafficking on increase	
Lithuania	s	Origin	450 child prostitutes	
Latvia	s	Origin		
Moldova		Origin/transit	Russia/Ukraine/Romania/Albania/Italy	
Russia	s Wars	Origin/transit/destination	8-12yr kids – Kiev/China/Chechnya/USA/	No law
Slovakia	s	Origin/transit/destination	Czech/Yugoslavia/Germany/Russia/Ukraine/Albania/Italy/Poland	Law
Turkmenistan		Origin	10yr old kids in cotton harvesting	
Ukraine	s Poverty	Origin/transit	20,000 parents abandoned 12,000p.a 3-7yr kids; 800 infants trafficked to	No law

			USA/Switzerland/Canada/Germany/France/Turkey/Cyprus/Yugoslavia/Bosnia/Herzegovina/Croatia/UA Emirates/Syria/China/Greece/Canada The Netherlands/Japan//Poland/Hungary/Czech Republic/Germany/Italy /Spain/Russia/Israel -50,000 schooling orphans; \$200pay	
Uzbekistan		Origin	Greece/Persian Gulf/Turkey	No law
M. EAST – 12		destination	Eastern Europe/Africa	
Bahrain				
Iran	s	Wars	Origin/transit	no women rights at all
Iraq	s	Wars	Origin	Greece
Israel	s		Destination	Russia/Eastern European children
Jordan	s		Destination	Queen Rania fighting child soldiers
Kuwait	s		Destination	Sri Lanka
Lebanon	s		Transit/destination	Lebanese businessmen in DR Congo/Zambia/South Africa
Oman	s			
Qatar	s		Origin/destination	Mauritanian slaves for Sheikhs/Camel jockeying
Saudi Arabia	s		Destination	Indonesian/Syrian teenage prostitutes and child labourers
UA Emirates	s		Destination	Pakistani/Bangladeshi 4/6yr old camel jockeying boys/Eastern European sex slaves (Russian/Polish/Hungarian)
Yemen			Origin/destination	450,000 10/14yr old child labourers
S.ASIA – 6				No laws
Afghanistan		Wars	Origin	20yr war pushed 8/9yr kids into prostitution
Bangladesh	s		Origin	3,397 10/18yr children trafficked for camel jockeying/prostitution in '02 EA. Emirates
India	s	Population	Origin/destination	400,000 child prostitutes is World's highest; also child labour Switzerland/Canada/Thailand/Sri Lanka/Nepal/Bangladesh; high HIV
Nepal	s		Origin	4/7,000 10/14yr Nepalese girls to India p.a.
Pakistan	s		Destination	8-18yr Bangladesh/Burmese/Afghan girls are auctioned in debt-bondage
Sri Lanka	s	Wars Corruption	Origin	Child soldiers/sex slaves for Tigers rebels 20,000 6-19y Pakistani girls in South Asia brothels/tourist resorts Saudi Arabia/Kuwait/India domestics
WESTERN H 22 – Canada	s	1 st World	Transit/destination	4-14yr mainly aboriginal prostitutes.
USA	s	1 st World	Origin/destination	50,000 Russian/Ukraine/Thai/Mexico/Czech/China/Turkey/Pakistan/Iran South America/India/North America/Sri Lanka/Korea/Malaysia/Vietnam /Canada, Africa
Mexico	s	Poverty HIV	Origin/transit/destination	Canadian/USA/European/Mexican gays/paedophile; 2,000 street kids 5,000 street prostitutes
Argentina	s	Wars	Origin/destination	Baby kidnappings/sex tourism
Belize			Origin	Migrant workers trafficking
Bolivia	s		Origin	Serious trafficking for prostitution and labour
Brazil	s		Origin/destination	Portugal/Spain/Holland/Belgium/France/Suriname/Paraguay/Africa/ Yugoslavia/Germany. 1/2million children enter prostitution p.a.
Chile	s		Origin	100,000 children in prostitution
Colombia	s	War	Origin	35,000 14-18yr girl/boy prostitutes; 300,000 child soldiers/sex slaves
Costa Rico			Origin	USA - 2,500 children in sex tourism
Dominican Rp			Origin/destination	25,000 12/17yr child prostitutes; Panama
Ecuador	s		Origin	Under 18 girls trafficked to Venezuela for prostitution
El Salvador			Origin	Situation out of control
Guatemala	s	War	Origin	36yr military abductions/child prostitution/street kids/illegal adoptions
Guyana			Origin	Huge female teenage prostitution
Honduras	s	Poverty	Origin	300 child killings/sex tourism/street children
Nicaragua	s		Origin	2000 500 child prostitutes in Managua.
Panama	s		Origin/destination	Dominican Republic young girls are trafficked to Panama for prostitution
Peru	s		Origin	500,000 child prostitutes
Suriname	s		Origin/destination	Internal and external trafficking
Uruguay	s		Origin	Child labour/street child vendors
Venezuela	s	Floods	Origin	Illegal adoptions/sex tourism/child disappearances/40,000 kid prostitutes
143 (74.4%) ²³⁵				

²³⁵ 143 out of 1992 nations of the World representing 74.4% are affected by trafficking in persons. The majority (80%) of the trafficking-in-persons victims are women, young adolescents and children trafficking into the global sex industry. Some are trafficked for commercial exploitation through forced labour, criminal activities which include currier of illegal commodities such as drugs and small arms, as well as for the removal and sale of human organs.

Appendix VI: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000

Preamble - The States Parties to this Protocol,

Declaring that effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights, Taking into account the fact that, despite the existence of a variety of international instruments containing rules and practical measures to combat the exploitation of persons, especially women and children, there is no universal instrument that addresses all aspects of trafficking in persons,

Concerned that, in the absence of such an instrument, persons who are vulnerable to trafficking will not be sufficiently protected,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, in which the Assembly decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration of, inter alia, an international instrument addressing trafficking in women and children,

Convinced that supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime with an international instrument for the prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, will be useful in preventing and combating that crime,

Have agreed as follows:

I. General provisions

Article 1 - Relation with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

1. This Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It shall be interpreted together with the Convention.
2. The provisions of the Convention shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to this Protocol unless otherwise provided herein.
3. The offences established in accordance with article 5 of this Protocol shall be regarded as offences established in accordance with the Convention.

Article 2 - Statement of purpose

The purposes of this Protocol are:

- (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children;
- (b) To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and
- (c) To promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives.

Article 3 - Use of terms

For the purposes of this Protocol:

(a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation;

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;

(d) “Child” shall mean any person below eighteen years of age.

Article 4 - Scope of application

This Protocol shall apply, except as otherwise stated herein, to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of the offences established in accordance with article 5 of this Protocol, where those offences are transnational in nature and involve an organized criminal group, as well as to the protection of victims of such offences.

Article 5

Criminalization

1. Each State Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in article 3 of this Protocol, when committed intentionally.

2. Each State Party shall also adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences:

(a) Subject to the basic concepts of its legal system, attempting to commit an offence established in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article;

(b) Participating as an accomplice in an offence established in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article; and

(c) Organizing or directing other persons to commit an offence established in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

II. Protection of victims of trafficking in persons

Article 6 - Assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in persons

1. In appropriate cases and to the extent possible under its domestic law, each State Party shall protect the privacy and identity of victims of trafficking in persons, including, inter alia, by making legal proceedings relating to such trafficking confidential.

2. Each State Party shall ensure that its domestic legal or administrative system contains measures that provide to victims of trafficking in persons, in appropriate cases:

(a) Information on relevant court and administrative proceedings;

(b) Assistance to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of criminal proceedings against offenders, in a manner not prejudicial to the rights of the defence.

3. Each State Party shall consider implementing measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons, including, in appropriate cases, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society, and, in particular, the provision of:

(a) Appropriate housing;

(b) Counselling and information, in particular as regards their legal rights, in a language that the victims of trafficking in persons can understand;

(c) Medical, psychological and material assistance; and

(d) Employment, educational and training opportunities.

4. Each State Party shall take into account, in applying the provisions of this article, the age, gender and special needs of victims of trafficking in persons, in particular the special needs of children, including appropriate housing, education and care.

5. Each State Party shall endeavour to provide for the physical safety of victims of trafficking in persons while they are within its territory.

6. Each State Party shall ensure that its domestic legal system contains measures that offer victims of trafficking in persons the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered.

Article 7 - Status of victims of trafficking in persons in receiving States

1. In addition to taking measures pursuant to article 6 of this Protocol, each State Party shall consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures that permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in its territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases.

2. In implementing the provision contained in paragraph 1 of this article, each State Party shall give appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors.

Article 8 - Repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons

1. The State Party of which a victim of trafficking in persons is a national or in which the person had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving State Party shall facilitate and accept, with due regard for the safety of that person, the return of that person without undue or unreasonable delay.
2. When a State Party returns a victim of trafficking in persons to a State Party of which that person is a national or in which he or she had, at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving State Party, the right of permanent residence, such return shall be with due regard for the safety of that person and for the status of any legal proceedings related to the fact that the person is a victim of trafficking and shall preferably be voluntary.
3. At the request of a receiving State Party, a requested State Party shall, without undue or unreasonable delay, verify whether a person who is a victim of trafficking in persons is its national or had the right of permanent residence in its territory at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving State Party.
4. In order to facilitate the return of a victim of trafficking in persons who is without proper documentation, the State Party of which that person is a national or in which he or she had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving State Party shall agree to issue, at the request of the receiving State Party, such travel documents or other authorization as may be necessary to enable the person to travel to and re-enter its territory.
5. This article shall be without prejudice to any right afforded to victims of trafficking in persons by any domestic law of the receiving State Party.
6. This article shall be without prejudice to any applicable bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement that governs, in whole or in part, the return of victims of trafficking in persons.

III. Prevention, cooperation and other measures

Article 9 - Prevention of trafficking in persons

1. States Parties shall establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures:
 - (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and
 - (b) To protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from re-victimization.
2. States Parties shall endeavour to undertake measures such as research, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
3. Policies, programmes and other measures established in accordance with this article shall, as appropriate, include cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society.
4. States Parties shall take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity.
5. States Parties shall adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to

discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children that leads to trafficking.

Article 10 - Information exchange and training

1. Law enforcement, immigration or other relevant authorities of States Parties shall, as appropriate, cooperate with one another by exchanging information, in accordance with their domestic law, to enable them to determine:

(a) Whether individuals crossing or attempting to cross an international border with travel documents belonging to other persons or without travel documents are perpetrators or victims of trafficking in persons;

(b) The types of travel document that individuals have used or attempted to use to cross an international border for the purpose of trafficking in persons; and

(c) The means and methods used by organized criminal groups for the purpose of trafficking in persons, including the recruitment and transportation of victims, routes and links between and among individuals and groups engaged in such trafficking, and possible measures for detecting them.

2. States Parties shall provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons. The training should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of the victims, including protecting the victims from the traffickers. The training should also take into account the need to consider human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues and it should encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society.

3. A State Party that receives information shall comply with any request by the State Party that transmitted the information that places restrictions on its use.

Article 11 - Border measures

1. Without prejudice to international commitments in relation to the free movement of people, States Parties shall strengthen, to the extent possible, such border controls as may be necessary to prevent and detect trafficking in persons.

2. Each State Party shall adopt legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent, to the extent possible, means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of offences established in accordance with article 5 of this Protocol.

3. Where appropriate, and without prejudice to applicable international conventions, such measures shall include establishing the obligation of commercial carriers, including any transportation company or the owner or operator of any means of transport, to ascertain that all passengers are in possession of the travel documents required for entry into the receiving State.

4. Each State Party shall take the necessary measures, in accordance with its domestic law, to provide for sanctions in cases of violation of the obligation set forth in paragraph 3 of this article.

5. Each State Party shall consider taking measures that permit, in accordance with its domestic law, the denial of entry or revocation of visas of persons implicated in the commission of offences established in accordance with this Protocol.

6. Without prejudice to article 27 of the Convention, States Parties shall consider strengthening cooperation among border control agencies by, inter alia, establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication.

Article 12 - Security and control of documents

Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary, within available means:

- (a) To ensure that travel or identity documents issued by it are of such quality that they cannot easily be misused and cannot readily be falsified or unlawfully altered, replicated or issued; and
- (b) To ensure the integrity and security of travel or identity documents issued by or on behalf of the State Party and to prevent their unlawful creation, issuance and use.

Article 13 - Legitimacy and validity of documents

At the request of another State Party, a State Party shall, in accordance with its domestic law, verify within a reasonable time the legitimacy and validity of travel or identity documents issued or purported to have been issued in its name and suspected of being used for trafficking in persons.

IV. Final provisions

Article 14 - Saving clause

1. Nothing in this Protocol shall affect the rights, obligations and responsibilities of States and individuals under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law and, in particular, where applicable, the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and the principle of non- refoulement as contained therein.

2. The measures set forth in this Protocol shall be interpreted and applied in a way that is not discriminatory to persons on the ground that they are victims of trafficking in persons. The interpretation and application of those measures shall be consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination.

Article 15 - Settlement of disputes

1. State Parties shall endeavour to settle disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Protocol through negotiation.

2. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Protocol that cannot be settled through negotiation within a reasonable time shall, at the request of one of those States Parties, be submitted to arbitration. If, six months after the date of the request for arbitration, those States Parties are unable to agree on the organization of the

arbitration, any one of those States Parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in accordance with the Statute of the Court.

3. Each State Party may, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to this Protocol, declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 2 of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by paragraph 2 of this article with respect to any State Party that has made such a reservation.

4. Any State Party that has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 16 - Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession

1. This Protocol shall be open to all States for signature from 12 to 15 December 2000 in Palermo, Italy, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 12 December 2002.

2. This Protocol shall also be open for signature by regional economic integration organizations provided that at least one member state of such organization has signed this Protocol in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

3. This Protocol is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A regional economic integration organization may deposit its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval if at least one of its member states has done likewise. In that instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, such organization shall declare the extent of its competence with respect to the matters governed by this Protocol. Such organization shall also inform the depositary of any relevant modification in the extent of its competence.

4. This Protocol is open for accession by any State or any regional economic integration organization of which at least one member state is a Party to this Protocol. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At the time of its accession, a regional economic integration organization shall declare the extent of its competence with respect to matters governed by this Protocol. Such organization shall also inform the depositary of any relevant modification in the extent of its competence.

Article 17 - Entry into force

1. This Protocol shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, except that it shall not enter into force before the entry into force of the Convention. For the purpose of this paragraph, any instrument deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of such organization.

2. For each State or regional economic integration organization ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Protocol after the deposit of the fortieth instrument of such action, this Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit by such State or organization of the relevant instrument or on the date this Protocol enters into force pursuant to paragraph 1 of this article, whichever is the later.

Article 18 - Amendment

1. After the expiry of five years from the entry into force of this Protocol, a State Party to the Protocol may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to the States Parties and to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the purpose of considering and deciding on the proposal. The States Parties to this Protocol meeting at the Conference of the Parties shall make every effort to achieve consensus on each amendment. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the amendment shall, as a last resort, require for its adoption a two-thirds majority vote of the States Parties to this Protocol present and voting at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote under this article with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Protocol. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs and vice versa.

3. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by States Parties.

4. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force in respect of a State Party ninety days after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of such amendment.

5. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties which have expressed their consent to be bound by it. Other States Parties shall still be bound by the provisions of this Protocol and any earlier amendments that they have ratified, accepted or approved.

Article 19 - Denunciation

1. A State Party may denounce this Protocol by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

2. A regional economic integration organization shall cease to be a Party to this Protocol when all of its member States have denounced it.

Article 20 - Depositary and languages

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated depositary of this Protocol.

2. The original of this Protocol, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

Appendix VII: Referees

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