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# **Rapid Assessment of CHILDREN IN CHILD LABOUR, IN HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS**





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## ACRONYMS

<b>C138</b>	Minimum Age Convention, No. 138, 1973
<b>C182</b>	Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, No. 182, 1999
<b>CSA</b>	Child Sexual Abuse
<b>CSEC</b>	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IPEC</b>	International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
<b>MCILI</b>	Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NSA</b>	Non-State Actors
<b>RA</b>	Rapid Assessment
<b>TACKLE</b>	Tackling Child Labour through Education
<b>UNCRC</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>UN</b>	United Nations



## FOREWORD

The International Labour Organization and its government, employer and worker constituents have been in the forefront of the fight against child labour for nearly a century, and remain committed to working to ensure children's right to education and freedom from child labour.

The most recent global estimates of child labour indicate that significant progress is being made. In the period 2000-2012, there had been a decline of over 30 percent in the number of children trapped in child labour from 246 million to 168 million.

At the international and country levels, the ILO has worked with governments, social partners and civil society in generating momentum for efforts to address child labour. In Solomon Islands, the ILO has provided technical support to constituents through the project "Building regional efforts for eliminating the worst forms of child labour and trafficking in Pacific Island Countries" which expanded on the actions of the Tackling Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) global project funded by the European Union.

Solomon Islands became a member state of the ILO in 1984, and has since ratified the eight ILO Fundamental Conventions, including the Conventions on Minimum Age (No.138) ratified in 2013, and the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No.182) ratified in 2012. The ILO Child Labour Rapid Assessment in Honiara, Solomon Islands, conducted in 2014, arose out of the first Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Solomon Islands in August 2014. The Rapid Assessment findings illustrate that child labour, including the worst forms of child labour exists in the Solomon Islands.

Of major concern are the children who are in the worst forms of child labour, in particular in commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking drugs, in petty crime and hazardous work, who should be urgently withdrawn and provided with rehabilitation, education and skills training. The Rapid Assessment also highlights the linkages between child labour and education. Only 21 children out of the 172 children who had participated in the research, were still in school. Unfortunately, a total of 151 children were out of school, including 26 children who had never been to school.

Without adequate education, former child labourers are more likely than others to end up in poorly paid and insecure work as adults or to be unemployed. There is also a high probability that they will live in poverty and that their children will share the same fate.

A collective challenge and responsibility for all is to enable all children, girls and boys, to have access to quality education. A future without child labour calls for inclusive development policies integrating decent work for adults, social protection floors and sound education systems.

The ILO would like to thank all the 172 working children who bravely participated in the research and the local Research Assistants who tirelessly worked to identify and interview children. In addition, the ILO appreciates the support provided by the stakeholders including, Ministries of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration, Education and Human Resources, Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, Justice Department, Correctional Services and Police, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Workers Union, National Teachers Union, UNICEF, UN Women, Development Services Exchange, Live & Learn, Christian Care Centre, Hope Trust, Save the Children, Family Support Centre, World Vision, Oxfam, ISSI and Solomon Islands Development Trust.

We encourage the Solomon Islands government and social partners to take urgent actions to eradicate the worst forms of child labour. The ILO will continue to provide technical support to the Solomon Islands to develop and implement sustainable and significant change to protect children's rights to education and ensure their freedom from child labour.

Donglin Li  
Director  
ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Solomon Islands became a member state of the ILO in 1984, and has since ratified 22 ILO Conventions including the eight ILO Fundamental Conventions. Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 10 April 1995 which promotes and protects young persons from all worst forms of child labour, and further ratified the Child Labour Conventions on Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182, in 2012 and the Minimum Age Convention, No. 138 in 2013.

These international legal frameworks which have been largely adopted in national law, prohibit the trafficking, economic exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Constitution of the Solomon Islands, 1978 provides for Protection from Slavery and Forced Labour. The Immigration Act 2012, prohibits the worst forms of child labour and the Labour Act 1996, protects children from economic exploitation and hazardous child labour. The Penal Code 1963 further prohibits the trafficking of children and sexual offences against children.

Most recently, on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the Solomon Islands Parliament passed the Child and Family Welfare Bill 2016, which provides for the welfare and protection of children by mandating the Social Welfare Division to better develop and coordinate services that would in the long run strengthen families and protecting children. The Bill seeks to protect and develop the interests and rights of our children regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity or cultural background; authorizes the courts to make care and protection orders in serious cases of abuses and neglects of children; and provides a legal mechanism for protecting children from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation to advance compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There is much that still remains to be done to protect children from child labour and ensure all children have free and easy access to education in Solomon Islands. The series of ILO- coordinated initiatives in Solomon Islands, including the national child labour and trafficking forums and the Rapid Assessment on Child Labour in Honiara, is a step in the right direction. The Rapid Assessment provides information on dynamics, causes and consequences of child labour and assists stakeholders to design policies and programmes needed to protect working children and eliminate child labour.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Immigration acknowledges the support to combat child labour provided by other government ministries- Education and Human Resources, Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, Justice Department, Correctional Services, Police and Family Support Centre- social partners- Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Workers Union, National Teachers Union- civil society groups- Development Services Exchange, Live & Learn, Christian Care Centre, Hope Trust, Save the Children, World Vision, Oxfam, ISSI and Solomon Islands Development Trust- Solomon Islands media, and UN agencies- ILO, UNICEF and UN Women.

The government and social particularly acknowledges the ILO Tackling Child Labour through Education Team for coordinating the work on child labour in the Solomon Islands and the local Solomon Islanders who were involved in the Rapid Assessment. The children and stakeholders who participated in the Rapid Assessment are highly commended.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rapid Assessment of Children in Child Labour in Honiara, Solomon Islands, was commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in response to concerns raised at the first National Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Honiara in August 2014. The two main issues: commercial sexual exploitation of children and children working in the informal sector in Honiara were identified by stakeholders and the need for research on the issues as a main priority action.

The Rapid Assessment of Children working on the Streets in Honiara, Solomon Islands was designed and coordinated by the International Labour Organization through the ILO's Pacific sub-regional child labour and trafficking programme, based in the ILO Suva Office. The field work was led by the ILO, with Research Assistants from Solomon Islands recommended by the University of the South Pacific and other NGOs working the field, including Development Services Exchange, Christian Care Centre and Solomon Islands Development Trust.

**“A total of 172 working children were interviewed, 54 children were in commercial sexual exploitation, 118 children interviewed were working mainly in the urban informal sector”**

A total of 172 working children were interviewed from Honiara in October 2014. Of the total children interviewed, 54 children were in commercial sexual exploitation, namely prostitution and a worst form of child labour, and 118 children interviewed were working mainly in the urban informal sector.

The majority of the children interviewed in commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) were between 16 to 17 years old (64%) (36), and the youngest was 10 years old. Although most of the children interviewed in CSEC were females (87%) (47), there was also 6 males and 1 transgender (male) child interviewed who were within the 16 to 17 year old category. The common age in which the children entered commercial sexual exploitation was between 15 to 17 years old - 43% (23). However, it is also important to note that the some of the children entered into commercial sexual exploitation from as young as 9-11 years old; 18% (10), and that 37% (20) of the children started sex work when 12-14 years old. Over 50% of the children who in CSEC participated in the rapid assessment had engaged in CSEC below 15 years old. Of the 54 children in CSEC, the majority were out of school children, including 10 children who had never been to school. A total of 8 children were still in school at the time of the research.

118 children were interviewed working in the informal sector. Most were males, 62 children, and 47% (56) were females. The youngest working child interviewed was 6 years old. The majority of the children interviewed were between 16 to 17 years of age. Over one quarter of the children interviewed who were working in the informal sector were below the age of 14 years. This represented 35% or 42 of the 118 children who were interviewed.

**“Over one quarter of the children interviewed who were working in the informal sector were below the age of 14 years”**

Most children were above the minimum age of employment from 14 to 17 years old. Of the 118 children, 6 children were in illicit activities including begging, drug peddling and petty crime, which are worst forms of child labour. Other children were also in the worst forms of child labour in the informal sector in work considered as hazardous. As Solomon Islands is yet to elaborate a hazardous child labour list, children's age, their input about the dangers of their work and their working hours and time of work are benchmarks used to identify hazardous work.

14% (16) of the 118 children who work in the informal sector have never to school. 10% (12) of the children who have never been to school were 15 years and under. A number of children who were 8 and 9 year olds who have never been to school were involved in pick pocketing and some 16 and 17 year olds were growing and selling marijuana. 30% (35) of the 118 children stated that they cannot read and write.

Poverty was given as the main reason for children engaging in child labour. Other reasons giving wer need to earn money and following their peers. Factors that contributed to the children getting into CSEC were given as:

- Being forced by family members
- Being raped and sold by family members
- Following other relatives or family members who are also doing same type of activity
- Living with family who is always drinking
- Being pimped by sibling, relative or boyfriend
- Wanting some money and following friends

There are many factors that lead to children entering the world of work. A significant number of working children face financial problems and difficulties that pushed them to work on the street. Most of the children were able to get work through their parents or through their friends and other children living in the same community.

A concerted effort needs to be made by all stakeholders to provide working children with access to education and skills training, counselling services, remedial support, implement awareness campaigns, establish systematic child labour monitoring and enforcement, and to conduct a national survey on child labour. Policies and programmes that address the broader issues of poverty and youth unemployment, should be designed and implemented, including parenting education, skills training for parents, literacy and numeracy classes, and alternative livelihood programmes for parents of working children.

There is an urgent need for awareness and advocacy to inform the general public about child labour and the national child labour and child protection laws, with broad stakeholder involvement including government departments, faith based groups, schools, communities, non-government agencies, media and academia. The adoption of child protection policies should also be made compulsory for all workers in all sectors in the Solomon Islands so that everyone in the Solomon Islands has a common responsibility to protect children from any form of exploitation.

**“6 children were in illicit activities including begging, drug peddling and petty crime”**

Finally, greater commitment is required at the national level to address child labour issues. The development of a National Action Plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in the Solomon Islands, as a matter of urgency, should be progressed along with strengthening of national laws and enforcement mechanisms to protect children from economic exploitation.

# 01 Introduction

Far too many children in the world remain trapped in child labour, compromising their individual and our collective futures. Recent estimates indicate that 168 million children worldwide are child labourers, accounting for almost 11 per cent of the child population as a whole<sup>1</sup>. There is no doubt that poverty amongst others is one of the primary cause for child labour. Although global trends indicate that child labour is declining, from 246 million (2000) to 168 million children (2012) the Asia and the Pacific region still has the largest numbers (almost 78 million or 9.3% of child population) involved in child labour.<sup>2</sup>

Economically active working children do a wide variety of different types of jobs involving the production of goods and services. ILO research has found children in the Pacific in the worst forms of child labour, involved in hazardous work, commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities such as drug trafficking, begging and pick pocketing. Children have also been found working below the minimum age of employment, working at night and in conditions which put them at great risk of being harmed. Children working below the minimum age of employment, were particularly in the urban informal economy as street vendors, loaders or carriers, scavengers, and in back yard garages and supermarkets.

Poverty, illiteracy, early school drop-out and lack of employment opportunities aggravate risk and vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Cultural practices that support the billeting of children with relatives, customary adoption practices or informal adoption of children within extended family networks, may also put children at further risk of exploitation. Many parents send their children to cities for education. Often the pressure of an additional member of the household to support may lead to children engaging in child labour. Studies show that generally urban household sizes in Pacific countries are growing, in some cases holding an average of 20 people, with little or no space for children to do homework. Children in these situations may be pushed out on the streets and into work for survival.<sup>3</sup>

Education is critical in getting secure employment and decent work. When children drop out of school they have fewer opportunities to achieve their full potential in securing better paid jobs when they are adults. Early school dropouts are usually associated with, among other factors, child labour and this not only prevents children from acquiring the skills and education that they need for a better future, it also often leads to poverty and affects national economies through losses in competitiveness, productivity and potential income.

## 1.1 Background

Since 2008, Fiji and PNG have benefitted from a global Tackling Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) programme funded by the EU, which strengthened the capacity of governments, social partners and civil society groups to implement policies and strategies to address child labour issues, including research and legislative reviews, resource sharing platforms, awareness and advocacy, child labour inspections, and direct actions with children in child labour, at risk, families, schools and communities.

The ILO sub-regional programme, "Building regional efforts for eliminating the worst forms of child labour and trafficking in Pacific Island Countries" extended technical support to other countries in the region in 2014, by capitalizing on the experiences gained in Fiji as a 'child labour hub'. Under this banner, the ILO continued to support actions in Fiji and PNG to prevent child labour and improve employment opportunities for youth through ensuring formal education, vocational training and apprenticeships, as well as enhancing the integration of entrepreneurship education in school curriculums and supporting careers education. Technical support was also extended to Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Samoa to enhance the knowledge base on child labour and trafficking through national forums and research with the aim of developing relevant child labour policies and strategies.

1 [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_norm/@ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_221513.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@ipec/documents/publication/wcms_221513.pdf)

2 Marking progress against child labour - Global estimates and trends 2000-2012 / International Labour Office, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) - Geneva: ILO, 2013.

3 UNICEF Child Protect Baseline Studies in Fiji, Solomon Is, Kiribati, Vanuatu and ILO Child Labour Research studies in Fiji and PNG

The Rapid Assessment of Children in Child Labour in Honiara, Solomon Islands, was commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in response to concerns raised at the first National Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Honiara in August 2014 over the lack of hard data and information on child labour in Solomon Islands. The forum participants present, identified types of child labour<sup>4</sup> in Solomon Islands as:

- Children pick-pocketing
- Children or young people involved in industrial work and working long hours
- Children scavenging
- Children in prostitution
- Children forced to do hard labour in agriculture
- Children forced to buy cigarettes and alcohol
- Young children as house girls or babysitters, especially relatives
- Children working in logging camps
- Out of school children/ School drop-outs- children not attending school-have to help out to look after young siblings or children making shell money and not going to school
- Working students- students finding temporary employment for school fees and expenses

The need for actions to combat child labour and trafficking were proposed, including:

- Enhancing awareness, advocacy and research
- Building capacity, institutional strengthening, structures & systems
- Strengthening partnerships and networking
- Improving laws, policies and resource allocation
- Increasing monitoring and enforcement

The forum provided the platform for participants to learn the concepts and laws on child labour and trafficking and identify issues and actions to address child labour and trafficking in Solomon Islands. The forum closed with the following resolutions:

- i. To conduct a rapid assessment on child labour in Solomon Islands focused on commercial sexual exploitation of children and children working in the informal sector in Honiara;
- ii. To undertake further training on strategies and approaches to child labour, including child labour inspection, CLMS, and guidelines for working with children;
- iii. Individual organisational 'concrete action' commitment to combat child labour and trafficking largely focused on awareness and advocacy led by individual agencies.

Following the Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Honiara in 2014, the ILO has since supported:

- The Rapid Assessment (RA) on Child Labour in Honiara including training of stakeholders and presentation of initial research findings and discussion of appropriate strategies;
- Support for Solomon Island representatives to share knowledge and experiences at a Pacific sub-regional Child Labour and Trafficking Forum;
- Training of Solomon Island partners at the ILO-International Training Centre workshop on Developing Skills and Livelihood programmes for older out-of-school children in child labour or at risk.

The Rapid Assessment of Children working on the Streets in Honiara, Solomon Islands was designed and coordinated by the International Labour Organization through the ILO's Pacific sub-regional child labour and trafficking programme, based in the ILO Suva Office. The field work for conducting the semi- structured interviews was supervised by the ILO, with Research Assistants from the Solomon Islands recommended by the University of the South Pacific and other NGOs working the field, including Development Services Exchange, Christian Care Centre, Hope Trust and Solomon Islands Development Trust.

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4 See Chapter 2 for table on types of child labour developed by participants at the Solomon Islands Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in August 2015



The purpose of the Rapid Assessment of Children working on the Streets in Honiara, Solomon Islands was to generate reliable data to develop effective interventions to address child labour in identified areas, environments and conditions in Honiara. Specific objectives of the Rapid Assessment were to:

- Identify major locations and incidences of children involved in child labour, including the worst forms of child labour in the country.
- Understand the socio-economic situation of the families of children in child labour
- Understand the pathways that led children to engage in child labour
- Understand the characteristics of the working children and the reasons for their engagement in child labour, and the working conditions and impacts of children engaged in child labour
- Understand the relations between school and work, and identify potential strategies to remove and rehabilitate children from child labour, including trafficking.

The Rapid Assessment was carried out in selected areas in Honiara and found 172 children working below the age of 18 years old. This included 54 children in commercial sexual exploitation and 118 children working mainly in the informal sector in various activities. The youngest child interviewed was 6 years old in the informal sector.

## 1.2 Organization of the Report

This report is divided into six parts:

- Part 1 provides a brief introduction to child labour and the background and objectives of the Rapid Assessment.
- Part 2 examines the international legal framework on child labour and the national legislative and framework on child labour, and the child labour terms and concepts
- Part 3 explores the scope and coverage of the Rapid Assessment, the research methods and tools, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations and limitations.
- Part 4 presents the findings of the Rapid Assessment on children in commercial sexual exploitation in Honiara
- Part 5 presents the findings of children working mainly in informal activities in Honiara, providing data through both qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Part 6 presents the conclusions and recommendations of the Rapid Assessment

### Map 1: Map of the Solomon Islands showing Honiara



## 02 The International and National Legal Framework on Child Labour, Terms and Concepts

Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 10 April 1995 which promotes and protects young persons from all worst forms of child labour. The Solomon Islands government further ratified the Child Labour Conventions on Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182, in 2012 and the Minimum Age Convention, No. 138 in 2013<sup>5</sup>. These international legal frameworks prohibit the trafficking, economic exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### 2.1 The ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973, No.138

The Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) continues to be the fundamental international standard on child labour which requires ratifying states to: “undertake to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons”. The Convention applies to all sectors of economic activity, whether or not the children are employed for wages. Exceptions are allowed for certain sectors (e.g. non-commercial agriculture in developing countries), for limited categories of work, for education and training, and for artistic performances. Fixing the minimum age for admission to employment is a basic obligation of ratifying member States, and the Convention establishes three categories for this:

- The minimum age should not be less than the age of completing compulsory schooling, and in no event less than 15 years of age. Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially fix the age of admission to employment at 14.
- A higher minimum age of 18 is set for hazardous work “which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons”. It is left to the individual countries to determine which these are.
- A lower minimum age for light work, i.e. work which is not likely to be harmful to children’s health or development or to prejudice their attendance at school may be set at 13. For a country that initially sets a minimum age of 14, the minimum age for light work may be set at 12.

### 2.2 The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, No.182

The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, No. 182, calls for “immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.” It applies to everyone under the age of 18 years. Effective, time-bound preventative action is demanded of ratifying states, including the identification of children at special risk and taking into account the special situation of girls. Children in the worst forms of child labour must be removed and rehabilitated, and have access to free basic education or vocational training.

The worst forms of child labour are defined as:

- a. All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, as well as forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- b. The use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

5 The Constitution of the Solomon Islands, 1978 - Part II (Fundamental Rights and Duties), Section 6 provides for Protection from Slavery and Forced Labour. The Immigration Act 2012, (No.3 of 2012) - Part 7 -(Offences and Penalties)- Section 73 provides for protection against worst forms of child labour



- c. The use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in relevant international treaties;
- d. Work, which by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, such harmful work to be determined national authorities.

## 2.3 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Child labour is a child rights issue. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) affirms: “the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.” (Article 32)

**“A person under the age of fifteen shall not be employed or work in any industrial undertaking”**

The ILO Conventions complement the UNCRC and provide comprehensive international instruments to tackle the problem of child labour. Article 28 of the UNCRC “recognises the right of the child to education and requires primary education to be compulsory and available free to all”; Article 34 states the need to “protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation....and take measures to prevent ...the exploitative use of children in prostitution...pornographic performances...”; and Article 35 to “prevent the abduction of, sale of or traffic in children of any purpose or in any form”.

## 2.4 Protection of children against child labour in national laws

Solomon Islands has ratified key international Conventions on child labour and established laws and regulations related to child labour, including its worst forms. The government of Solomon Islands is yet to ratify the UN CRC Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

Part VII of The Labour Act 1996, on the employment of children and other young persons, provides the following protections for the employment of children:

- i. Employment of children under 12- (46) No child under the age of twelve years shall be employed in any capacity whatsoever provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any such child employed by and in company with his parents (or one of them) or his guardian on light work of an agricultural, domestic or other character which has been approved by the Commissioner.
- ii. Employment of persons under 15- (47) A person under the age of fifteen shall not be employed or work in any industrial undertaking, or in any branch thereof, except in employment approved by the Minister; or on any ship: Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to or prevent the employment of a person under the age of fifteen years upon work in a school-ship or a training-ship or a technical school or college when such work is approved and supervised by a public authority.
- iii. Employment of persons under 16- (48) A person under the age of sixteen shall not be employed underground in any mine.
- iv. Employment of persons under 18- (49) A person under the age of eighteen shall not be employed or work-

**“A person under the age of sixteen shall not be employed underground in any mine”**

- (a) underground in any mine unless, being a male person, he has attained the age of sixteen and produces a medical certificate of a medical practitioner or a person approved for that purpose by the Health Officer attesting his fitness for such work;
- (b) on any ship as a trimmer or stoker except on a ship mainly propelled by means other than steam: Provided that a male person between the ages of sixteen and eighteen may be employed as a trimmer or stoker on a ship exclusively engaged in the coastal trade if he is certified by a medical practitioner to be physically fit for such work;

- (c) on any kind of work on a ship unless certified by a medical practitioner to be fit for such work: Provided that in urgent cases the Commissioner may permit the embarkation of a male person under the age of eighteen without prior medical examination, and in such case the employer shall at his own expense have such male person medically examined by a medical practitioner at the first place of call at which there is a medical practitioner, and should such practitioner not attest such male person as fit for the work, the employer shall at his own expense return such male person as a passenger to the port or place where he was engaged, or to his home, whichever is the nearer; or
- (d) during the night in any industrial undertaking: Provided that a male person over the age of sixteen may be so employed with the permission in writing of the Commissioner.

The Labour Act 1966, also requires every employer in an industrial undertaking and every master of a ship to keep a register of all persons under the age of eighteen years employed in such undertaking or on such ship, which should have their names, date of birth and the dates when they began and stopped employment.

However, as the Labour Act permits children as young as 12 years to work, this is not consistent with international standards requiring a minimum age of employment not lower than 14 years. On ratifying Convention 138, the government has declared 14 years as the minimum age, thus it is envisaged that an amendment may be made to the Labour Act to reflect this declaration.

The Constitution of the Solomon Islands, 1978 also protects children from the worst forms of child labour and exploitation. Section 6 states that no person shall be held in slavery or servitude and no person shall be required to perform forced labour. The Penal Code 1963 further prohibits the trafficking

**“Every employer in an industrial undertaking to keep a register of all persons under the age of eighteen years”**

of children and sexual offences against children, including procuring a girl under 18 years, living on the earnings of prostitution, and offences against men and boys. Unfortunately both the Penal Code 1963 and Criminal Procedure Code 1962 do not state an age limit for arresting those who engage in Solomon Islands, meaning that even minors may be arrested with clients and facilitators.

The Immigration Act 2012, (No.3 of 2012) states in Section 73 that a person commits an offence if the person intentionally engages in people smuggling if the person intends that the smuggled person be subjected to exploitation (whether or not by the person). The Immigration Act, 2012 - Section 70 defines “exploitation” as “all forms of sexual exploitation (including sexual servitude and exploitation of another person’s prostitution), forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude and the removal of organs. Section 78 of The Immigration Act 2012, (No.3 of 2012) provides for offence of exploiting a trafficked person which states: “ A person who engages in, or profits from, the exploitation of a trafficked person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 45,000 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or, or both.”

## 2.5 Defining Child Labour for the purposes of data collection<sup>6</sup>

International labour standards define child labour by its consequences: it encompasses work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling. The three principal international Conventions on child labour with respect to the main legal concepts of child labour which they embody are the ILO’s Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); the ILO’s Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989. Together, these Conventions provide the parameters for fixing national legal boundaries for child labour and the legal basis for national and international action against it.

6 Information below from Report III, Child Labour Statistics, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians; Geneva, 24 November–5 December 2008

Concepts such as “child labour”, “worst forms of child labour” and “hazardous work of children” have been ‘defined’ in the legal standards adopted by the ILO over the years, as well as in national laws and regulations in countries throughout the world. These standards provide the essential legal basis for all national and international action relating to child labour. They draw a clear line between forms of children’s work which are acceptable in national societies and in the international community and those which are not. However, a clear distinction must at all times be made between, on the one hand, defining child labour or different forms of child labour for the purpose of compiling statistics and, on the other, legal definitions established for the purpose of prohibiting or regulating child labour.

**Child** refers to a person below the age of eighteen years. (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1; ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999, Article 2)

**Economic activity** is a broad concept that covers most productive activities undertaken by children, whether for the market or not, paid or unpaid, for a few hours or full time, on a casual or regular basis, legal or illegal; it excludes chores undertaken in the child’s own household and schooling. To be counted as economically active, a child must have worked for at least one hour on any day during a seven-day reference period. “Economically active children” is a statistical rather than a legal notion.

**Child labour** is a narrower concept than “economically active children”, excluding all those children aged 12 years and older who are working only a few hours a week in permitted light work and those aged 15 years and above whose work is not classified as “hazardous”.

**Hazardous work** by children is any activity or occupation that, by its nature or type, has or leads to adverse effects on the child’s safety, health (physical or mental) and moral development. Hazards could also derive from excessive workload, physical conditions of work, and/or work intensity in terms of the duration or hours of work even where the activity or occupation is known to be non-hazardous or “safe”.

Simply put, child labour is classified as children’s work which is of such a nature or intensity that it is harmful to their health and development and prevents them from receiving a proper education. The concern is with children who are denied their childhood, who work at too young an age, who work long hours, who work under conditions harmful to their health and to their physical and mental development, who are separated from their families, and who are deprived of education. This can create irreversible damage to the child and violates international guidelines and national laws.

Following the practice adopted by most countries in quantifying child labour, the ILO approach for its global child labour estimates takes child labour, for identification purposes, as being the total of (i) a subset of working children (that is, children engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary of the System of National Accounts), i.e. work, plus (ii) those in specific worst forms of child labour not covered by (i).<sup>7</sup>

7 There is however, growing support from stakeholders and researchers interested in the study of child labour for the adoption of a wider concept of “work by children” that includes certain non-economic activities, such as unpaid household services (that is, domestic and personal services for consumption within the same household that children frequently engage in, also termed “household chores”).

8 CHILD LABOUR STATISTICS: Manual on methodologies for data collection through surveys; ILO; 2004

One of the common places that children who drop out of school (or who are still in school) find work is on the streets in urban areas in both the formal and informal economies, working either independently in the streets or for operators of various activities. Most of these children remain on the move from one place to another during the day and at night, they sleep outside or in abandoned buildings, under bridges, in market areas, parks or bus stations.<sup>8</sup> Surveying these children through a probability sampling procedure is difficult, and therefore, when researching children working in informal sectors, a purposive or convenience approach is usually applied when selecting the urban areas to be covered and children to be interviewed.

## 2.6 Defining the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children

The **Stockholm Declaration** adopted at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (1996) defines the commercial sexual exploitation of children as “a form of coercion and violence against children (that) amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.” The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), is the exploitation by an adult with respect to a child or an adolescent, female or male, under 18 years old; accompanied by a payment in money or in kind to the child or adolescent (male or female) or to one or more third parties. Commercial sexual exploitation in children includes all of the following:

- The use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind (commonly known as child prostitution) in the streets or indoors, in such places as brothels, discotheques, massage parlors, bars, hotels, restaurants, outdoors and so on.
- The trafficking of girls and boys and adolescents for the sex trade.
- Child sex tourism.
- The production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children.
- The use of children in sex shows  
(public or private.)

**Child trafficking** (children under 18 years of age) is a combination or series of events that may take place in the child’s home community, at transit points and at final destinations. The recruitment and movement may appear voluntary initially but then take on aspects of coercion by a third person or a group. The relocation may be across borders or within a country. Exploitation may occur at the beginning, middle or end of the trafficking process or indeed at several points. The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol) defines the term “exploitation” to include “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.”

The term sex worker, is often used as a non-judgmental term which avoids negative connotations and recognizes that people sell their bodies as a means of survival, or to earn a living.

The term perpetrator refers to persons who facilitate and are involved in the exchange of either cash, goods or kind, for the exploitation of someone below age 18 (a child) for sexual purposes. This may include the clients of the child, pimps, madams, ‘aunties’, ‘uncles’, etc. who participate in exploiting the child in various means.

## 03 Overview of the Rapid Assessment

### 3.1 The Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Solomon Islands

The Rapid Assessment of Children working in Honiara, Solomon Island was commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in response to concerns raised at the first National Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Honiara in August 2014. The two main issues: commercial sexual exploitation of children and children working in the informal sector in Honiara were identified by stakeholders and the need for research on the issues as a main priority action. The table below is taken from the report of the National Child Labour and Trafficking Forum in Honiara in August 2014, and is a collation of group work results of the participants.

**Table 1: Types of Child Labour in the Solomon Islands**

Example of type of child labour found in these industries	Typical location	Estimated numbers	Age & gender of children typically engaged	Push and pull factors	Description of work/ tasks	Identified hazards & risks/ consequences
<b>Agriculture Sector</b>						
Harvesting and collecting palm oil fruits	Guadalcanal Plains Plantation Limited; East Guadalcanal	4- 7 children per family are involved in collection	Both gender; children from 5- 17 years	If a family needs to harvest an area of palm, the whole family including the children are involved in the harvesting/ collection of fruits	Collecting palm oil fruits as part of a family's work contract.	Thorns, bending, insects and animal bites, exposure to extreme weather temperature
Use of agro-chemicals to spray on palm oil plantations (pesticides, insecticides)	Guadalcanal Plains Plantation Limited; East Guadalcanal	4- 7 children per family are involved in collection	Both gender; children from 5- 17 years	To help the family; out growers contract type	Children use chemicals to do the spraying (T45 was used before, now use gramozone)	Exposure to toxic chemicals e.g. gramozone
<b>Fishing sector</b>						
Harvesting of beche-de-mer	Rural villages e.g. Ngongosila Island, Malaita Province	4-7 children per family involved	Mainly male; 8-17 years	To support family income, pay school expenses and other basic needs, good money, high demand	Diving in deep water; sorting; loading and transporting catch	Extreme temperature; exposed to sharks or crocodiles; infections from polluted water; illegal activities

Forestry & Mining						
Domestic work in logging camps	Most logging camps in SI	2-4 per family involved	Mainly females; 11-16 years	Source of income for the family For individual needs	Laundry, housekeeping, cooking	Working odd hours; working in isolation
Commercial sexual exploitation in logging camps	Most logging camps in SI	Not sure (6-12 per camp?)	Mainly females; 9-16; also males	Source of income for the family & individual needs	Sexual activities	HIV/ STI; Teenage pregnancy; high mortality rate
Mining						
Alluvial mining	Goldridge Koloula	Not sure	Both female and males; 5-18 years	Source of income for the family	Digging of soil from mountain to the stream; carrying rocks; panning	Landslide disaster; exposed to chemicals; skin disease; health issues
Construction & associated industries						
Furniture making (unregulated informal operators)	Honiara; Ranadi	10	15-17 years; males	Develop skills No other income source	Plane timber; timber dressing; using electrical machines; nailing timber; sanding of timber; varnishing timber/ furniture	Inhaling dust- asthma, breathing difficulties; loud noise- hearing problems; punctures from nails- injuries; back injuries from bending/ lifting heavy weight
Making bricks; road construction; building construction	Honiara; Ranadi	10	15-17 years; males and some females	Very little income No alternative opportunity Get pocket money to hang out with friends	Painting; tiling; plastering; load lifting	Inhaling dust- asthma, breathing difficulties; loud noise- hearing problems; punctures from nails- injuries; back injuries from bending/ lifting heavy weight
Domestic sector						
Caring for young children/ infants (parenting role); House girl	Both rural and urban areas	Not sure	Female; 8-12 years	Where mothers are income earners, for example working in Sol Tuna factory or selling in the market/ street vendor- girls are needed to babysit	Washing; cleaning; feeding; carrying babies; playing with children; collecting water	Exposed to household chemicals; long working hours- fatigue/ lack attentiveness; sharp objects; unable to react to emergencies; consequences to baby- not enough attention; ergonomic hazard

Food preparation; water or firewood collection	Both rural and urban areas	Not sure	Males 14-15 years; Females 5-17 years	Where mothers are income earners, girls are needed to babysit	Climbing up coconut trees; collecting and chopping firewood; collecting water	Walking long distances to carry water; heavy load; physical injuries from falling from tree; burns; drowning in the river; cuts; risk of abuse or harassment-isolation or separation from family
Children/youths involved in building/recovery work after disaster	Disaster affected communities	Not sure	Mostly males; 12-16 years	Cheap/ no-cost labour; pressure from family; as part of family contracts	Carry timber; digging wells	no school attendance/ drop-out; carry heavy loads; infections; cuts from sharp objects
<b>Services sector and street activities</b>						
Buying smokes and alcohol for adults/ parents	Homes, markets, streets	Many	Any child, gender	Ignorance of the law; cultural beliefs	Going alone to the shops; sometimes at night	Not safe; drunks around; may be assaulted or molested; may start smoking and drinking at young age
Children pick-pocketing	Markets; Point Cruz; Chinatown	Not sure	9-12 years; males; older children/youths also	Poverty Unemployment	Steal from people on buses, pedestrians, at markets, in church, at nightclubs; breaking in & entering homes	Beaten up; arrested; take drugs; addicted to easy money
Scavenging for cans, metals, food	Ranadi dump/ Burns Creek; streets; streams	Many	5-17 years; any gender	Poverty; displaced families during the crisis/ before; makeshift 'houses' (broken down trucks etc.) established at the site	Look for things in the dump to recycle	Illness; exposure to toxic wastes, batteries, heavy metals, fires, explosions; cuts from sharp objects; flies/ mosquitoes; dust, fumes; tetanus, injuries
Nightclub, motel and casino workers-Solfish	Honiara; fishing boats; Asian clientele in homes; taxi drivers	Not sure	Teenage girls	School dropouts Lack of opportunities Poverty For money	Employers use girls for sex with clients to make money- part of employment contract	Disease, pregnancy, abuse, drugs and alcohol, death, violence. Sexual harassment/ CSEC
Selling kwaso, betelnut, marijuana	Honiara streets, at stalls; from homes; squatter settlements	Not sure	Children under 18 years; males and female	To help family income Family contract	Selling for money for someone else	Physical abuse; mental illness; addicts; risk of using drugs/ alcohol; sexual abuse; theft



Participants (representing government, workers, employers, civil society, UN agencies, and the media) at the Forum recommended that a rapid assessment on child labour in Solomon Islands focused on commercial sexual exploitation of children and children working in the informal sector in Honiara was to be conducted. The ILO was identified to take the lead role in coordinating the Rapid Assessment.

### 3.2 Scope and Coverage

The Rapid Assessment of Children working on the Streets in Honiara, Solomon Islands was designed and coordinated by the International Labour Organization through the ILO's Pacific sub-regional child labour and trafficking programme, based in the ILO Suva Office. The field work was led by the ILO, with Research Assistants from Solomon Islands recommended by the University of the South Pacific and other NGOs working the field, including Development Services Exchange, Christian Care Centre and Solomon Islands Development Trust.

Research Assistants were and trained to gather information from the Honiara town and neighbouring settlements. These areas or hotspots were identified prior to a training workshop for Research Assistants and stakeholders facilitated by the ILO on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014, and confirmations on the locations made at that workshop. The field data collection (field research) was conducted from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

### 3.3 Objectives

The purpose of the Rapid Assessment was to generate reliable data to develop effective interventions against Child Labour in identified areas, environments and conditions in Honiara. Specific objectives of the Rapid Assessment were to:

- Identify major locations and incidences of children involved in child labour, including the worst forms of child labour in the country.
- Understand the socio-economic situation of the families of children in child labour
- Understand the pathways that led children to engage in child labour
- Understand the characteristics of the working children and the reasons for their engagement in child labour, and the working conditions and impacts of children engaged in child labour
- Understand the relations between school and work, and identify potential strategies to remove and rehabilitate children from child labour, including trafficking.

### 3.4 Sampling

A total of 172 working children were interviewed from Honiara; 54 in CSEC and 118 children working mainly in the urban informal sector. The Research Assistants identified the respondents in general child labour through key informants or when they were working in their respective work site. Identifying commercial child sex workers was not easy due to its illegal practice and its sensitive and hidden nature.

The research team identified the respondents when they were working on the streets and also through establishing contact with local personnel in the selected sites to gain information and to be able to access the communities and children to be interviewed.

In addition, the chain referral technique of snowball sampling was used, involving identifying children representing the study population who then identified others, increasing the contact network.

### 3.5 Method and Tools

Field data obtained was both quantitative and qualitative. The following methods were employed by the researchers in a combination of various sampling techniques.



- Direct observation allowed the researchers the opportunity of interacting directly with children who are engaged in street vending activities. This usually happened when children were working on the streets. The researchers either interviewed the children when they were working or made appointments for interview on another day.
- Unobtrusive Observation allowed the researchers to gather information without the individuals knowing that they were being observed. The researchers used this research method in the town area and on the streets to be able to identify the children working on the streets before approaching them. For children in sex work, the researchers used this research method in bars and on the streets to be able to identify the SWs before approaching them.
- Semi- structured were conducted with children below the age of 18 years who have been identified to be engaged in the informal sector or CSEC and interviews conducted with these children was through the use of specially prepared and tested semi-structured questionnaires.
- Research Diaries was issued to each researcher as a personal research diary from the start of the research process. The research diary was used every day to record the days happenings, ethical issues, problems and possible solutions, questions and possible answers impressions and feelings, "To do" lists, names and addresses of contacts, brief unstructured observations, records of conversations, ideas and comments about the field work or the research in general.

### 3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

Qualitative and quantitative data obtained from the semi- structured questionnaires processed and analysed using the SPSS software. This software encapsulates advanced mathematical and statistical expertise to extract predictive knowledge that, when deployed into existing processes, makes them adaptive to improve outcomes.

The variables from each of the children were first factored into the SPSS variable spreadsheet immediately after checking and finalizing the questionnaires. The SPSS was also used to establish frequency and percentage distributions, descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations where necessary. These were then interpreted to make comparisons, establish trends, and proportions.

Tables and graphs were generated to provide quantitative data and inform qualitative data. Qualitative data was processed into SPSS and analysed thematically.

### 3.7 Ethical Considerations

The research assistants were selected based on previous experience and had either worked in, and were familiar with the language and sites that they were conducting the research in. Training on conducting the Rapid Assessment including ethical issues for the research and on the research protocol was provided to the research assistants before the field research.

Consent from the child and parent or guardian if available was sought at all times before the interview was conducted and a consent form signed. The researchers ensured that before commencing with the interview or discussions, the child was informed about the importance of the research, confidentiality, the kind of information will be collected, how it will be collected and how it will be used. The researchers ensured that the child was aware that they could stop taking part in the research at any time should they feel uncomfortable. Majority of the children interviewed wished not to be identified therefore this report ensures the anonymity of the respondents.

A trained counsellor was part of the Research Team. The team took a list of contacts in case there were children who requested referrals. The contact list included details of the following agencies: SEIF PLES, Family Support Centre, NRH, Christian Care Centre Emergency, Police and Police Sexual Assault Unit.

### 3.8 Challenges/ Limitations

- Although the Research Team was supported by agencies with community networks and had access to a list of community gatekeepers provided by these agencies, they were still faced with the challenge of trying to access these communities.
- Not all children were available to be interviewed at the time when the research team was in their area.
- Non-cooperation by some sex workers was also a challenge. There were a few instances where the informants claimed that they were losing potential customers in stopping to be interviewed. This was also the case with some children working in the informal sector.
- There were instances whereby the informants were not honest with their age and therefore the researchers had to use probing techniques to ascertain their age.
- Time constraints also proved as a challenge as the research team needed more time to identify informants, convince them of the positive aspects of the research and gain their trust. This was particularly so for child sex workers.
- More time could have been used to first raise the awareness of community leaders, gatekeepers and members of the community before conducting the research.
- Not all children fitting the required criteria could be easily found so the research team spent many hours travelling to identify participants.
- The distance between hotspots and lack of transport options which did not allow much research on the streets to take place in the evenings and night.

## 04 Children in Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a worst form of child labour, and 54 children in Honiara were identified as being in CSEC, particularly in prostitution (sex work), but also in pornography, sex shows and pimping (facilitating clients for other child sex workers). This section presents information on the nature and scale of children in commercial sexual exploitation in Honiara including age, sex and where they are from, when the child entered into commercial sexual exploitation and how long they have been involved, the push and pull factors, impacts, their education and socio - economic status and aspirations. Data presented are in percentages and numbers. This information is integrated with qualitative data the key informants' views and observations by research assistants to draw conclusions.

### 4.1 Nature and scale of children in commercial sexual exploitation in Honiara

#### 4.1.1 Age, sex and gender

In total 54 children below the age of 18 years in commercial sexual exploitation participated in the Rapid Assessment. The majority of the children interviewed were between 16 to 17 years old (64%) (36), and the youngest was 10 years old. Although most of the children interviewed were females (87%) (47), there was also 6 males and 1 transgender (male) child interviewed who were within the 16 to 17 year old category.

Figure 1: Age distribution of the children

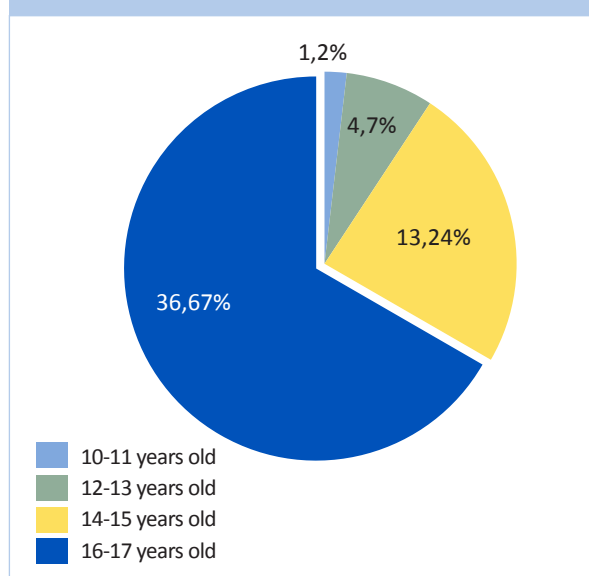


Figure 2: Age distribution of the children by gender

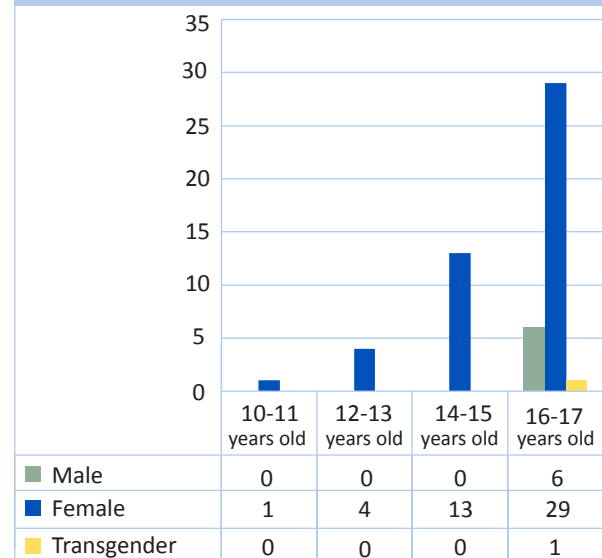
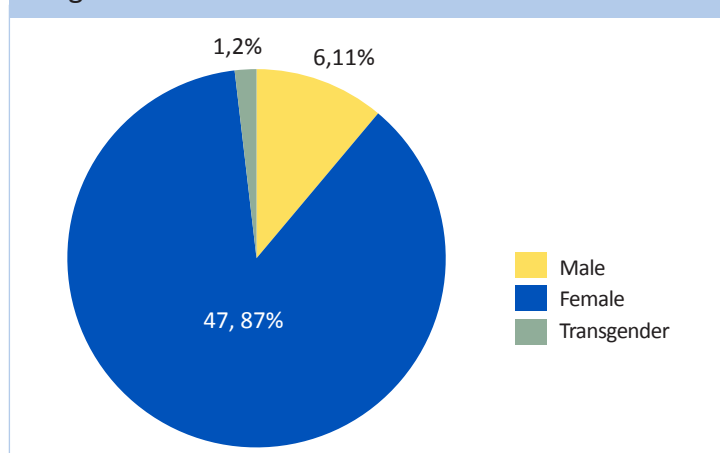


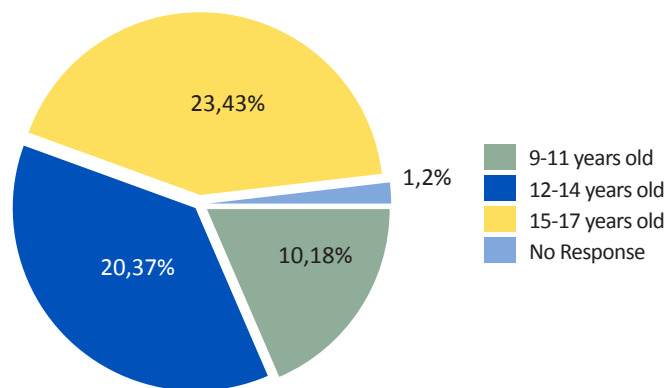
Figure 3: Gender distribution



### 4.1.2 When they entered into commercial sexual exploitation

The common age in which the children entered commercial sexual exploitation was between 15 to 17 years old - 43% (23). However, it is also important to note that some of the children entered into commercial sexual exploitation from as young as 9-11 years old; 18% (10), and that 37% (20) of the children started sex work when 12-14 years old. This indicates that the children enter commercial sexual exploitation from an early age. It is crucial to note that 55% of the children who participated in the rapid assessment started before 15 years old.

Figure 4: Age when they started sex work



## 4.2 Living arrangements

### 4.2.1 Marital status

Slightly more than 90% (49) of the children involved in sex work are single. Two children had partners (either married or in a de-facto relationship), one was separated, one divorced and one listed as 'other'. The rapid assessment found that some of the children marry at a very young age and are vulnerable to abuse and domestic violence. Apart from the 49 children who stated that they were single, five (5) children stated that they were either Married, Separated, Divorced and Other. The two (2) that are shown as 'Married' were married when 16-17 years old. The 'Separated' female stated that she was married when she was between 14-15 years old. The two children identified as 'Divorced' and 'Other' got married at 16-17 years old.

Figure 5: Marital status of the children

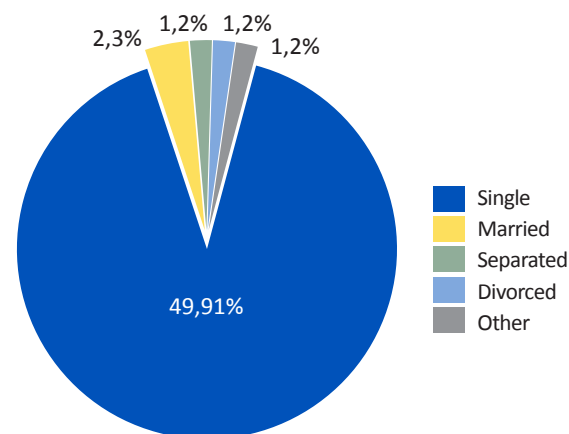


Table 2: How old were you when you got married?

How old are you?	Marital Status					Total
	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Other	
10-11 years old	1	0	0	0	0	1
12-13 years old	4	0	0	0	0	4
14-15 years old	12	0	1	0	0	13
16-17 years old	32	2	0	1	1	36
Total	49	2	1	1	1	54

## 4.2.2 Living arrangements

The majority of children interviewed, 16 children or 30% live with their relatives, while 14 (27%) of the children involved in commercial sexual exploitation live with their parents. 14 children (27%) lived with their friends and the rest were either living on their own, with husband, boyfriend or partner or with a sibling.

Figure 6: Living arrangement of the children

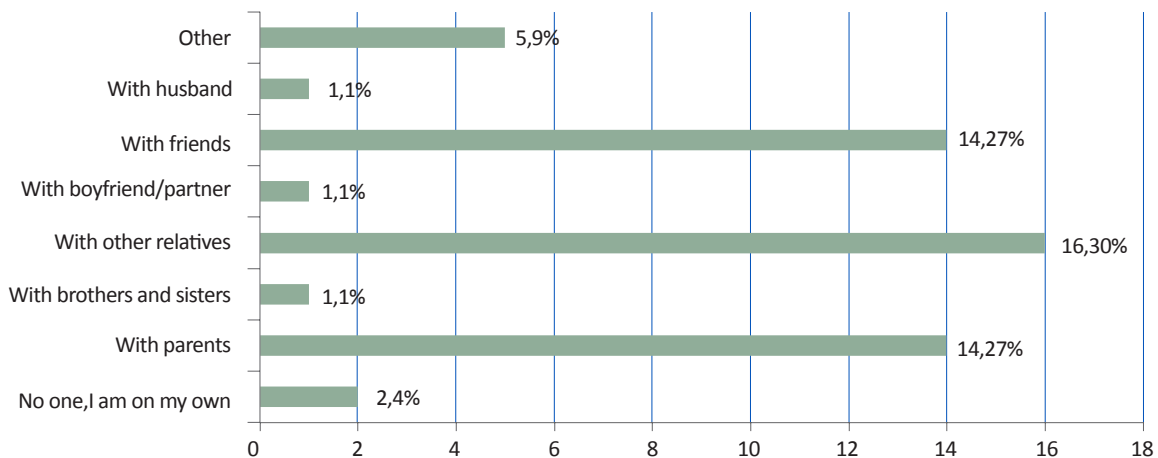
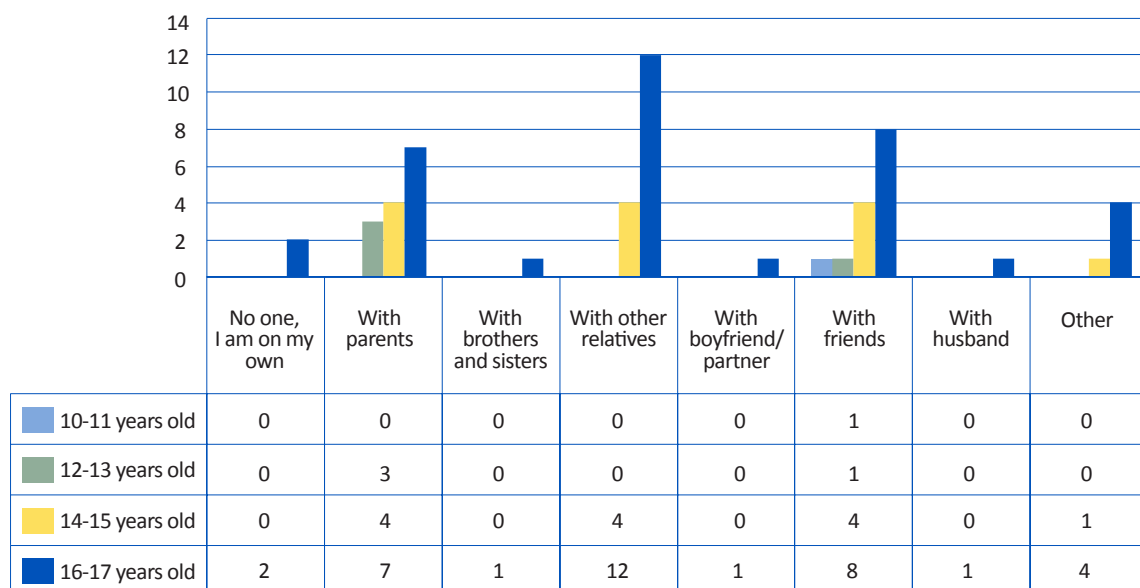
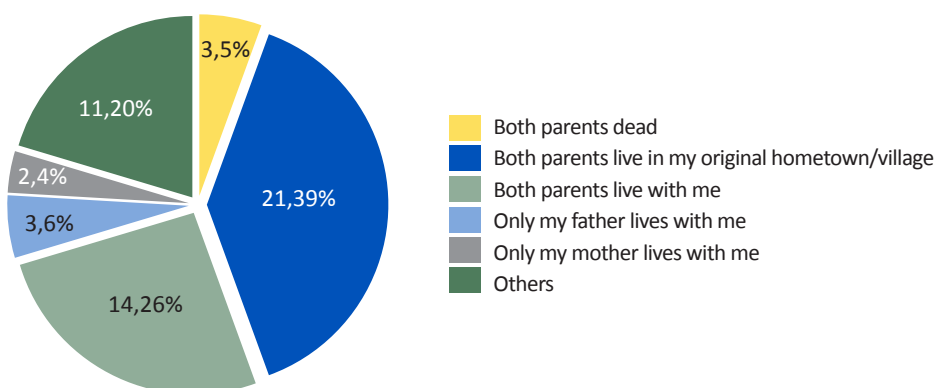


Figure 7: Who do you live with by age



Most children stated that both parents were living in their original hometown or village. In some cases the child's parents had passed away or separated and therefore the child was living with only one parent.

Figure 8: Where are your parents



### 4.2.3 Reasons for leaving home

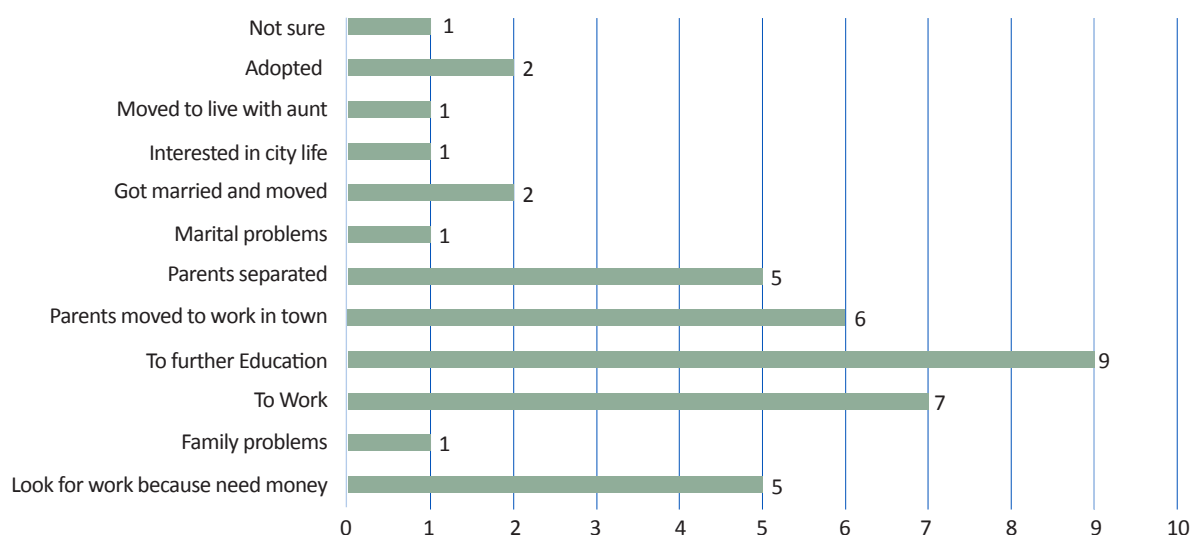
The majority of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation (76%) or 41 children, stated that they have not lived at the same place and that they have moved.

The main reasons given by the children to explain their reasons for leaving home include to further their education, to work and look for work, because their parents moved to town to work and because their parents separated. Other reasons include being adopted, family problems, marital problems and getting married.

Figure 9: Have you lived at the same place?



Figure 10: Reasons for leaving home



## 4.3 Education status

Education is a major strategy that can be used to get children out of child labour. Children have the right to education. Children engaged in the worst forms of child labour need education and skill-based training programmes to enable them to obtain jobs that can earn good income. Child labour not only prevents children from gaining an education but could be a consequence of children dropping out of school prematurely and therefore becoming trapped in child labour.

### 4.3.1 Education status- in school or out of school children

The majority of children in commercial sexual exploitation were out-of-school children or 'school drop-outs'. Not all children were out of school children, with 8 children indicating that they were still in school. Although 44 out of 54 children had been to school, 10 children indicated that they had never been to school. Of the 44 children who had been to school, 36 children had dropped out of school and 8 children were still in school. A total of 46 children in commercial sexual exploitation were therefore out of school children, including dropouts and those who had never been to school. The children who have never been to school are two (2) who are 14-15 years old and eight (8) who are 16-17 years old.

Figure 11: Ever been to school

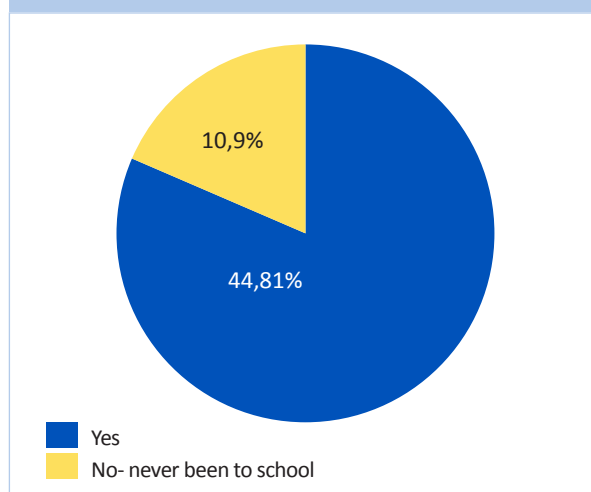


Figure 12: Still in school

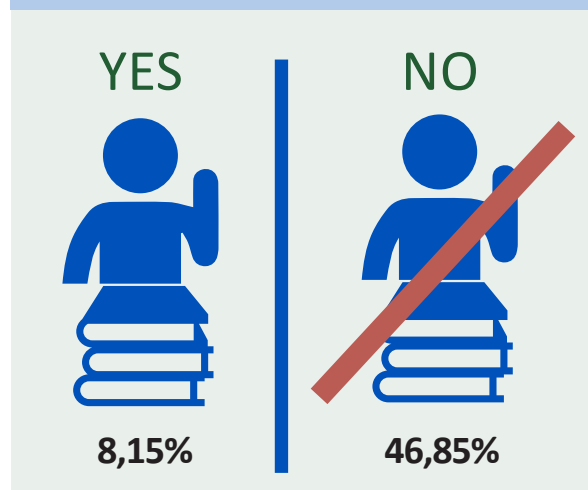


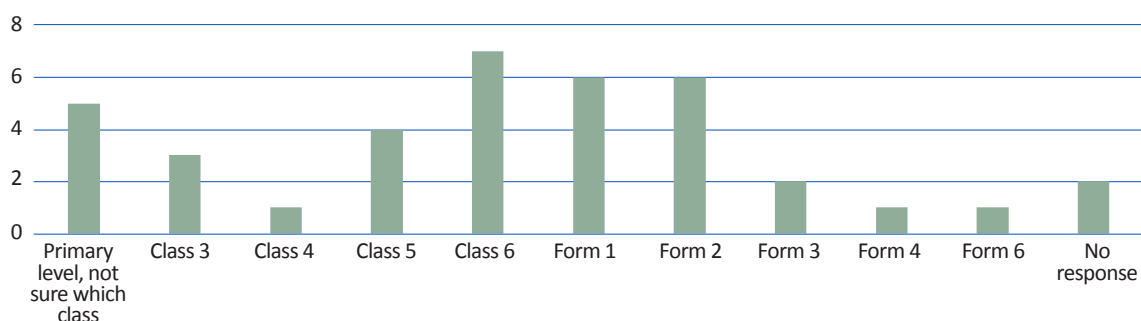
Table 3: Have you ever been to school by children still in school by age

Are you still in school?			How old are you?				Total
			10-11 years old	12-13 years old	14-15 years old	16-17 years old	
Yes	Have you ever been to school?	Yes	0	2	2	4	8
	Total		0	2	2	4	8
No	Have you ever been to school?	Yes	1	2	9	24	36
		Never been to school	0	0	2	8	10
Total			1	2	11	32	46

### 4.3.2 Highest class reached

The trend seen from the data regarding the highest class achieved show that most children drop out of the school system from Class 6 to Form 2 (Class 8). This may be because of the progression from primary to secondary education, or failure in a national examination at that level.

Figure 13: Highest class reached of out-of-school children



### 4.3.3 Able to read and write

When asked whether they could read or write, about three quarters of the children in commercial sexual exploitation stated that they were able to read and write. However, as Figure 14 and 15 shows, 24% (13) and 22% (12) of the children stated that cannot read nor write. This is not surprising given that 10 children had never been to school. Also, although most children indicated that they could read or write, it is likely that they cannot read or write fluently, especially if they dropped out of school at primary school level.

Figure 14: Percentage that can read

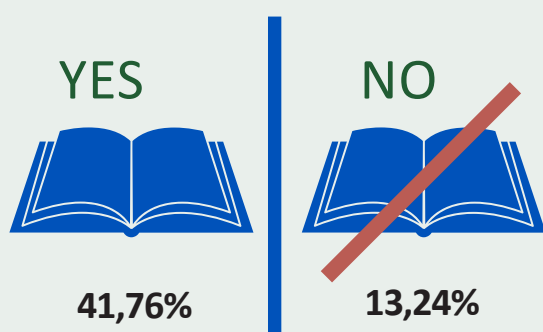
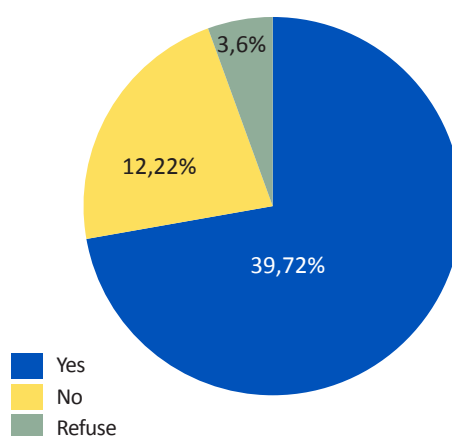


Figure 15: Percentage that can write



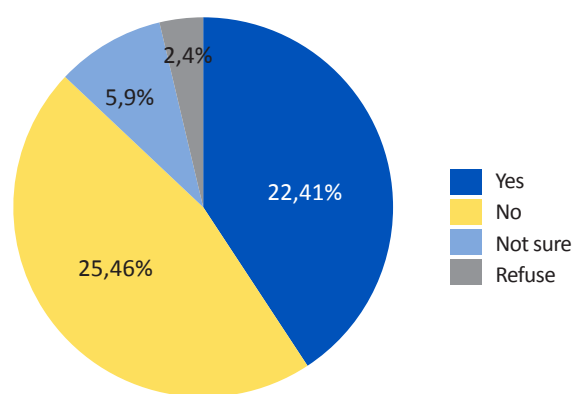


### 4.3.4 Reasons for leaving school (dropping out of school)

Of the 54 children involved in commercial sexual exploitation, 22 children stated they had dropped out of school to work. The main reasons reason given by children for leaving or dropping out of school was because of financial difficulties, not being able to pay fees and parents not supporting education costs. A significant other reason that led to children dropping out of school was being raped and sexually abused. Other reasons children gave for dropping out of school included:

- Family problems, parents divorced or death of a parent
- Getting married or being forced into marriage while still in school
- As a result of the violence at home and result of the tension and schools being closed

Figure 16: Did you stop school to work



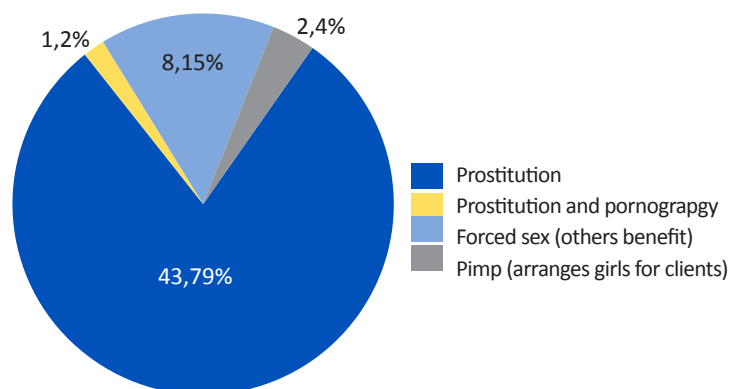
## 4.4 Type of exploitation and conditions

The children were asked to identify the type of work they were engaged in. The study attempted to gain some information on the extent of the children's involvement in CSEC.

### 4.4.1 Type of commercial sexual exploitation

79% (43) of the 54 children who participated in the rapid assessment study are in prostitution with the remaining 15% (8) are involved in forced sex (where others benefit); 4% (2) are pimps and 2% (1) is involved in prostitution and pornography. When asked further of how they found out about sex work, more than half 56% (30) stated 'through their friends'.

Figure 17: Type of exploitation on children



### 4.4.2 Age when children first started sex work

19% (10) of the children entered into commercial sexual exploitation when 9-11 years old and more than fifty percent 56% (30) started when the children were 14 years old and younger.

**Table 4: How old were the children when they first started doing this work by age group**

How old were you when you first started doing this work?	Age group				Total
	10-11 years old	12-13 years old	14-15 years old	16-17 years old	
9-11 years old	1	1	3	5	10
12-14 years old	0	3	8	9	20
15-17 years old	0	0	2	21	23
No response	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1	4	13	36	54

### 4.4.3 How children found this work

**Table 5: How did you find this work by age group**

How did you find this work?	Age group				Total
	10-11 years old	12-13 years old	14-15 years old	16-17 years old	
By myself	0	0	1	5	6
Other people asked me to work for them	0	0	1	0	1
Through friends	1	3	8	18	30
Through parents	0	0	1	1	2
Through relatives	0	0	1	8	9
Others	0	1	1	4	6
Total	1	4	13	36	54

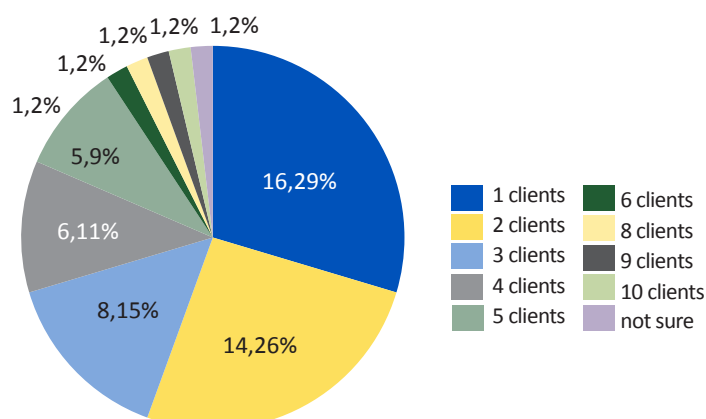
### 4.4.4 Places where children in commercial sexual exploitation work and clients

Ten places were identified by the children as places where they 'worked'. The beach, motel, hotel, cars, nearby houses and Asian fishing boats were most common. Most children did not work from only one location, but multiple locations including:

- Beach; Motel; Hotel; Houses nearby; Cars; Fishing boats; Cocoa plantation; Coconut plantation; Bushes; Along the roadside

The children "operate" daily and there are a number of factors that determine the volume of work. Peak seasons according to the children may be during high tourist period, payout for the loggers, local businessmen, the presence of Asian fishing boats and payout for the miners. Other factors determining when children "operate" are whenever there is a demand from the clients and when there is a need for money from the children. The in-school children in commercial sexual exploitation would operate after school hours and some use every weekend to engage in this.

Figure 18: Maximum number of clients in 24hours



The children stated that they were able to get their clients by using more than one means, including:

- Stand on the street
- Middle-person
- Work at Brothel/Motel
- Go to Bars/Clubs
- Go to Asian fishing vessels
- Taxi drivers
- School Mates
- Friends

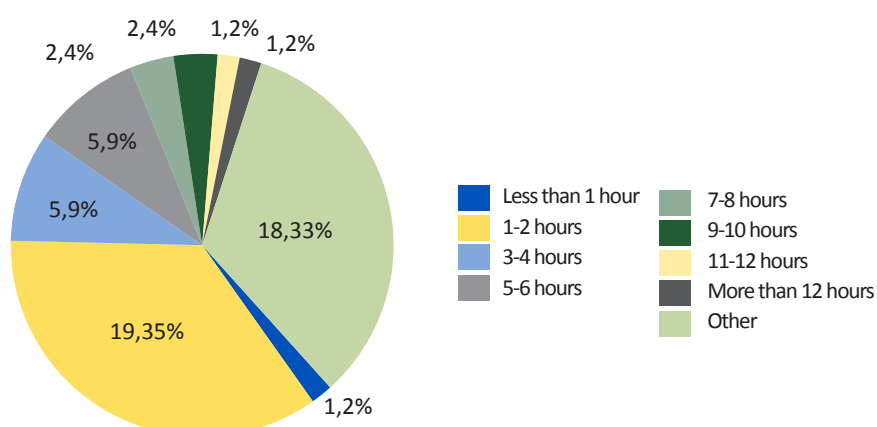
In addition, children also get clients through family members for example, step-father, aunty, husband, sister and cousin.

When asked how many clients that the children have had in 24 hours, most children had 1-2 clients with others stating up to 10 clients a day. 'Clients' as stated by the children in commercial sexual exploitation include Asians from Asian fishing boats; loggers; miners; foreigners; local businessmen; local customers and taxi drivers. The children identified loggers, boyfriends, middle-man, aunt, sister, local businessman and pimp as persons who they worked for.

#### 4.4.5 Hours spent engaged in commercial sexual exploitation

Generally most children in commercial sexual exploitation work at night. 35% or 19 children stated they worked either 1-2 hours per day. 'Other' hours, referred to having no set time to work as their hours of work depends on the clients when they call. Children explained that clients come at different times – there is no set time; that their work depends on the demand and if there is high demand they can work until morning. In some instances they may spend the whole day with a partner.

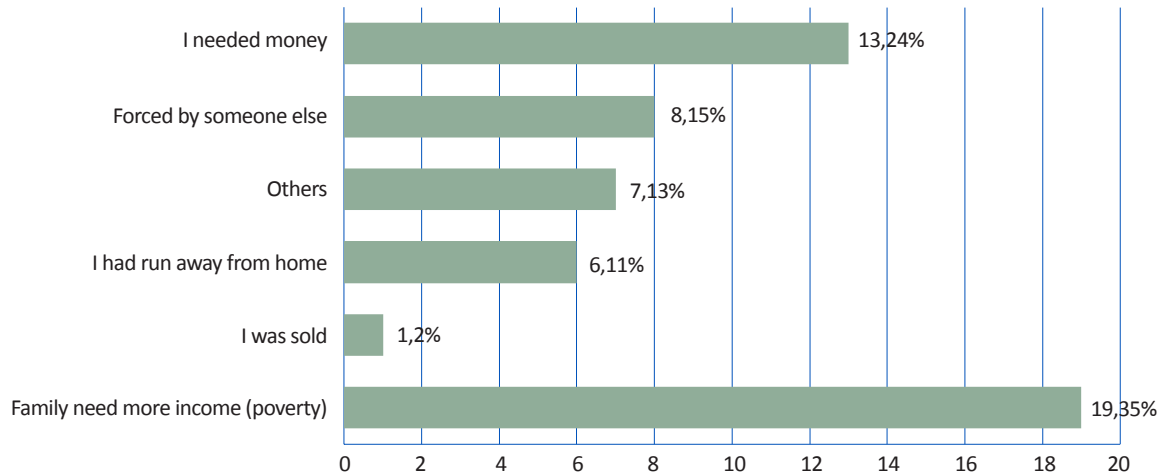
Figure 19: Hours spent doing this work



## 4.5 Push and pull factors

The need for money for themselves and their family including poverty was cited as the main reasons pushing 59% (32) children into commercial sexual exploitation.

Figure 20: Why did you have to start work?



### 4.5.1 Remuneration

Clients give children money, gifts, alcohol and food in exchange for sexual favours. Most of these children also assisted the family with the income they received.

72% (39) of the children receive money from their clients, 22% (12) receive money and gifts, 4% (2) receive money, food and alcohol and 2% (1) receive gifts only. Money, gifts, friends, drinks and being taken out to dinner can be seen as 'pull factors' for the children in commercial sexual exploitation.

The desperate need for money for basic needs is a major factor that has pushed children into commercial sexual exploitation, especially prostitution. Receiving gifts and money is also a pull factor. When asked

Figure 21: How are you paid?

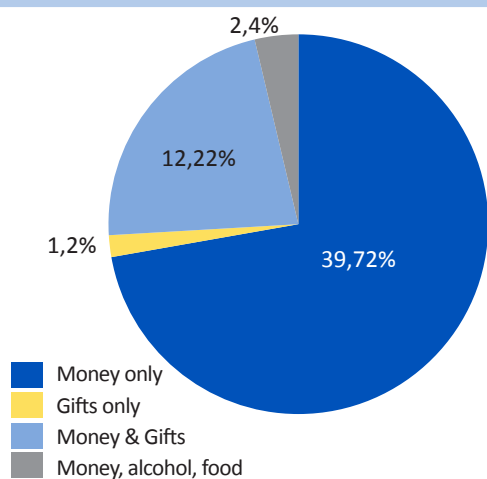
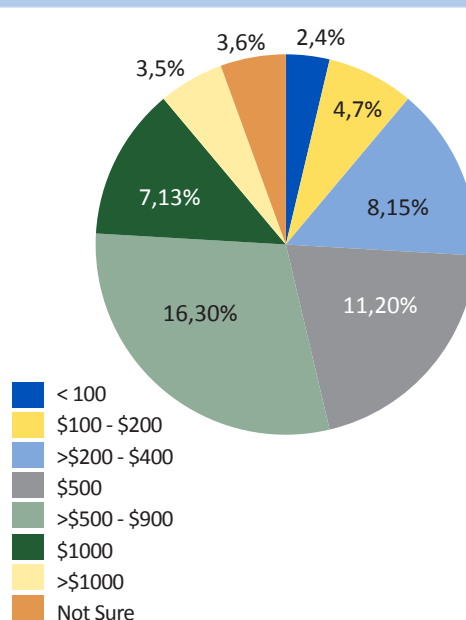


Figure 22: Weekly earnings

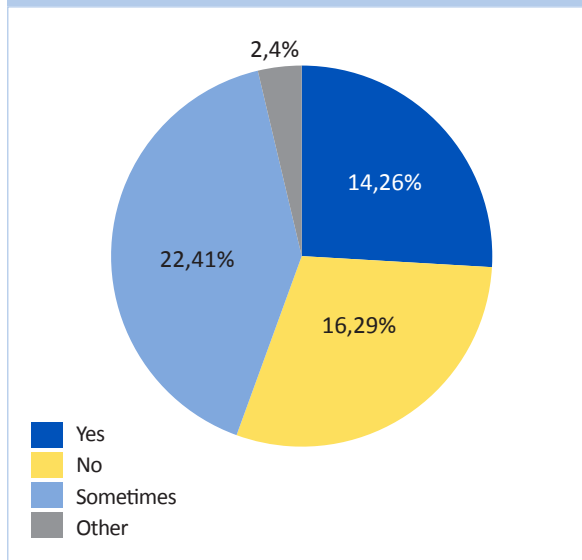


what is the most expensive gift received from clients, children listed for example, gold earrings, gold watch, gold chain, gold bracelet, smart phones, laptop, TV and \$2000 to start a business.

Only one quarter (26% or 14) children keep their cash earnings. Most children stated that they spent their earnings on supporting themselves and on their families. How they spend their earnings include:

- I buy food for the people I stay with
- Buy my things which I need and sometimes buy things for my sister and brother at home
- Buy things for my baby, the family, give money to mother or parents
- Pay for school fees and other necessities
- Save and give or send to parents or grand-parents

Figure 23: Do you keep your cash earnings?



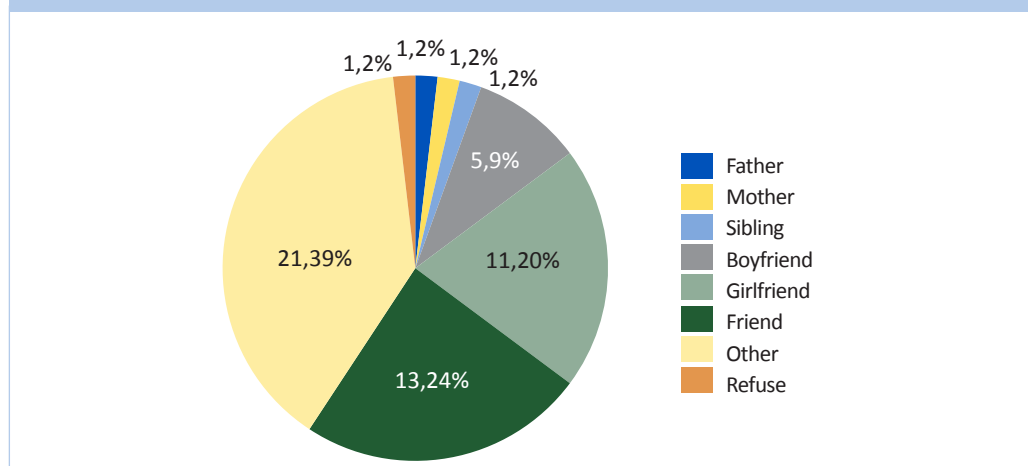
## 4.5.2 How children got into commercial sexual exploitation

A case of concern is highlighted by the children when further asked about their relationship with those that got them into commercial sexual exploitation. Children identified their mother, father, sibling, friends in regards to their relationship with the person who got them into commercial sexual exploitation. Figure 24 shows that friends play a big role in pushing or pulling children into commercial sexual exploitation. 'Others' are the acquaintances of the family members and friends of the children.

Factors that contributed to the child to get into sex work:

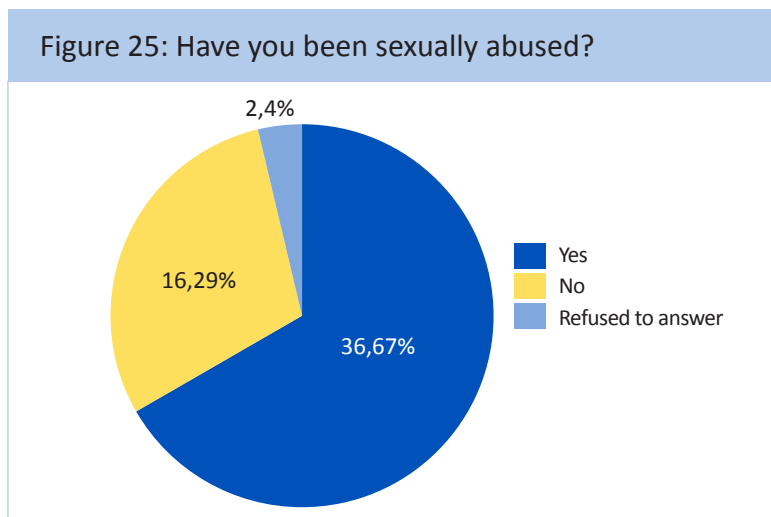
- Being forced by family members
- Being raped and sold by family members
- Following other relatives or family members who are also doing same type of activity
- Living with family who is always drinking
- Being pimped by sibling, relative or boyfriend
- Wanting some money and following friends

Figure 24: Your relation to the person who got you into this



## 4.6 Child Sexual Abuse

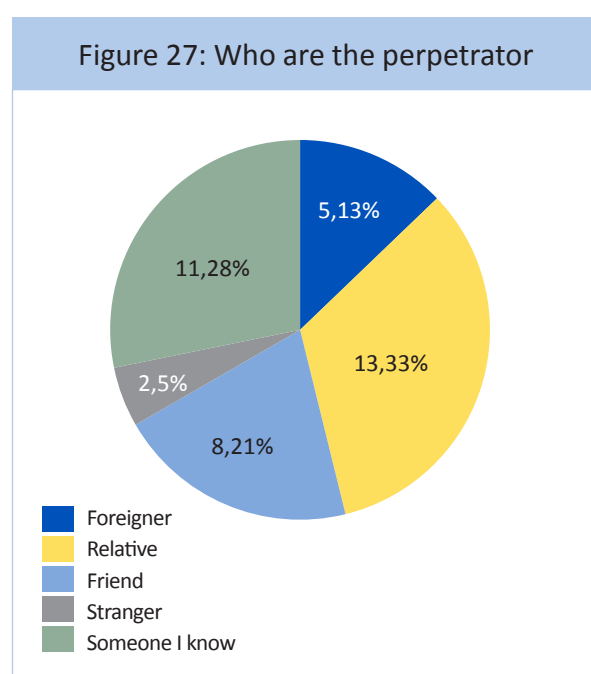
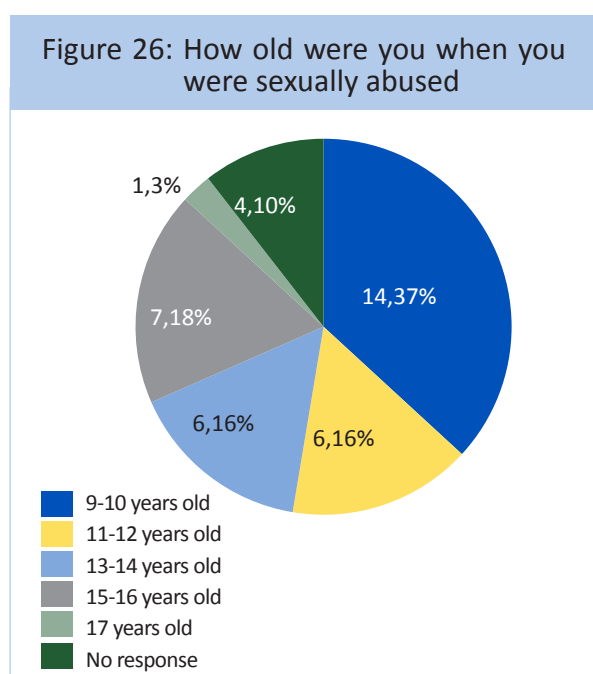
All children irrespective of ethnicity, location, class or social status are at risk of sexual abuse. The vulnerability of the children increases when factors such as poverty, parental neglect, lack of opportunity such as access to education and employment contribute to a child's life. The victims of sexual abuse experience emotional and psychological stress that remains with the victim and scars the child for life. Sexual abuse often leads the child to enter into CSEC activities. In this study 67% (36) of the children in commercial sexual exploitation stated they have been sexually abused – Refer to Figure 25.



### 4.6.1 Age of children when sexually abused and perpetrators

Figure 26 shows that 37% (14) the 54 children in this CSEC study were sexually abused when they were 9-10 years old. Furthermore 69% (26) of the sexually abused children are 14 years and younger. The perpetrators known to the abused children as a 'Relative', 'Friend' and 'Someone I know' make up a staggering 82% (32).

In most cases the abuse happened at the child's family home, abusers home, the home of a relative, grandparents or sibling, boyfriend's house, car and in the bush or plantation, the beach, car, hotel or motel. The perpetrators were most often identified as relatives, someone the child knew and friends.



**Narrative: 1**

Misty (15 years old) and Kat (17 years old) are sisters. After their parents separated when they were very small, their mother remarried and they lived with their mother and stepfather. When Misty was 11 years old and Kat 13 years old, their stepfather began to molest them, and a year later raped them. Filled with shame and fear they did not tell anyone what had happened. Later their mother died, leaving them to stay with their stepfather and aunt, who then began arranging for men to enter the girls rooms and forcing them to go with taxi drivers and other 'clients'. If the girls refuse they are beaten up by their aunt and stepfather. They do not know how much they earn as their aunty receives the money from the men. Although both girls are school drop outs, they hope one day to complete their education and find good jobs. Misty hopes to be a lawyer in the future.

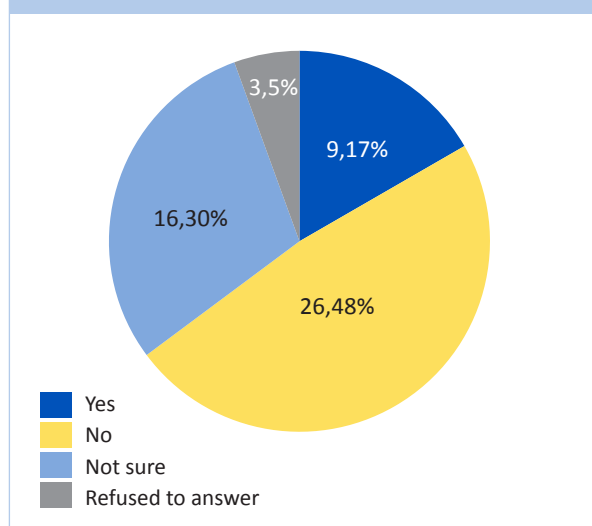
*15 and 17 year olds, interviewed in Honiara (names are fictional)*

## 4.7 Impacts, consequences and dangers faced by children in commercial sexual exploitation

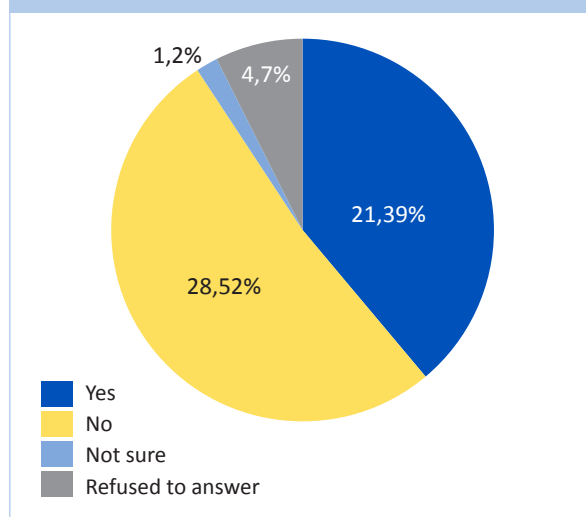
The impacts of child labour, specifically CSEC is not just dangerous but much more than dangerous than what one can imagine. It affects the person emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and physically. The traumatic experiences and scars it leaves on and within a person can sometimes be impossible to erase.

The main attraction for the children being involved in commercial sex is the “easy money” - children claim that they engage in these commercial sex activities when they want money. Some parents are aware (refer to Figure 30) of their children's involvement in commercial sex and condone it. The children have stated that they contribute money for the family's needs, help pay for their bus fare to school and their school needs. The CSEC children have also disclosed that their parents and family take a share in the money they make from commercial sex as the children send money home to their parents, support their siblings and purchase food and the basic necessities for their family.

**Figure 28: Any member of your household doing the same work?**

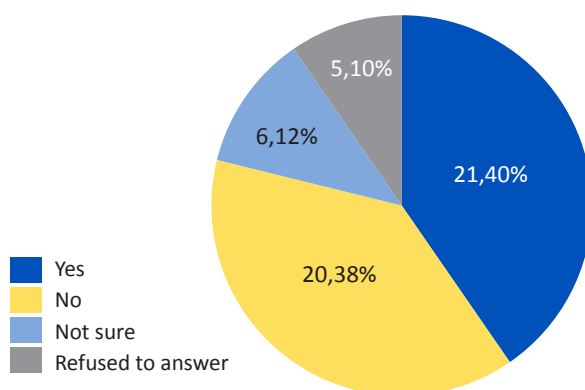


**Figure 29: Do your parents or your guardian know that you are involved in commercial sex work?**



According to the children, they are could easily be shunned when they were discovered to be involved in commercial sex work. Although it did not last long, the children endured the insults and humiliation from the public. A significant number said that they were scorned by some of their friends and felt isolated. The findings showed that there are members of the family and community who are aware of the children's involvement in commercial sex work.

Figure 30: Do your community/friends know that you are involved in commercial sexual work?



#### 4.7.1 Dangers faced by children in commercial sexual exploitation

Safety of the children will always be a priority concern to the children because most of the times the children are under the influence of drugs or alcohol when at 'work'. Travelling to the 'work venue' in cars at high speed, having new clients, being abandoned at the beach, and being beaten up by violent clients are some of the dangers faced by children in commercial sexual exploitation. When asked whether they felt safe at work, more than half of the children stated that they did not feel safe at work and more than half the children also stated that they had been sick or injured as part of their work. Around 11 (20%) of children indicated that they had contracted STIs and 5 (9%) of the children had been punished by police. The children's explanations for each of these factors as shown below, highlight the dangers, risks and vulnerabilities of children in commercial sexual exploitation.

Figure 31: Do you feel safe at work?

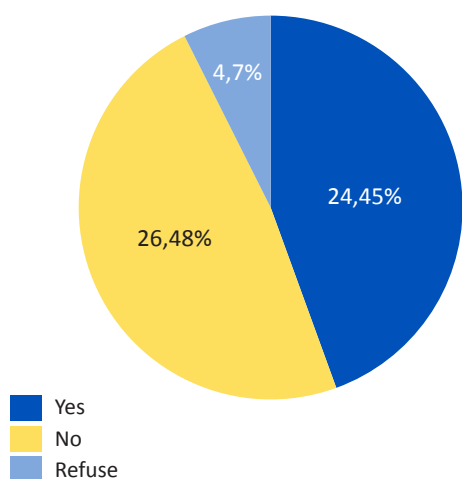


Figure 32: Have you been sick or injured as a result of your work

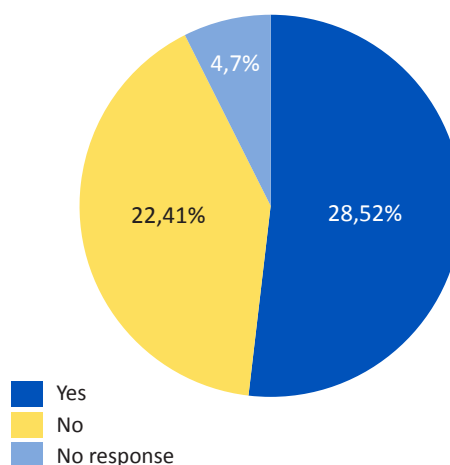




Figure 33: Contracted Sexually transmitted Infection

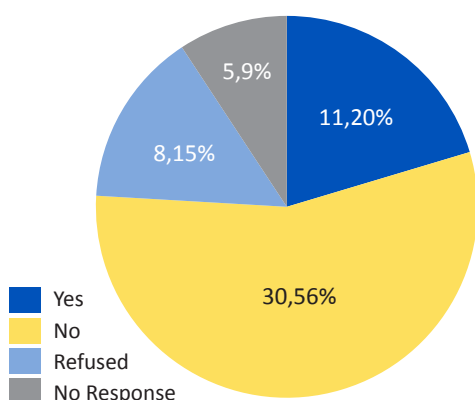
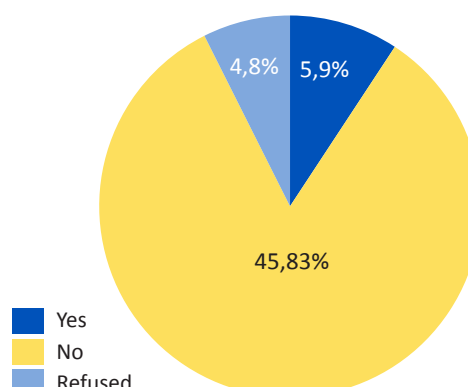


Figure 34: Punished by Police or any authority



Experiences of children coming into contact with the law included being arrested for possession of marijuana, being arrested and remanded overnight in the cell, being slapped, pushed and kicked by Police for drunken disorderly behavior, being punished by brother and relatives and having to pay compensation. Sicknesses and injuries experienced by children in commercial sexual exploitation include injuries related to violent sexual activity, including being beaten up by clients and raped by family members or relatives (9), sexually transmitted diseases (10), sickness associated with working late nights and outside such as back pain, headache and malaria (9) and getting pregnant (1).

#### 4.7.2 Reaction from family and community

Often the reactions from family and communities also pose dangers to children in commercial sexual exploitation. In response to the questions regarding being condemned by family and community, most of the children stated that had not been condemned by family or community. To a large extent this was because of the secretive nature of the children's work or because the family the main perpetrator and benefitted from the commercial sexual exploitation of the child. Some of the examples given by children on how they have been condemned by family or community included:

- Father threatened to kill her
- Beaten up by parents and brother
- Not allowed to freely walk around the village
- Pressured to involve other boys in the community

Figure 35: Condemned by Family members

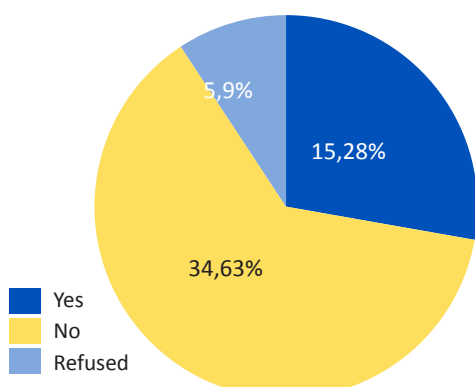
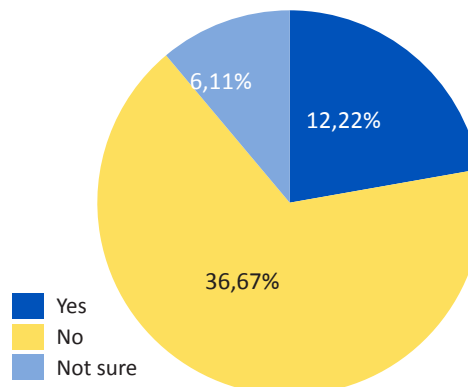


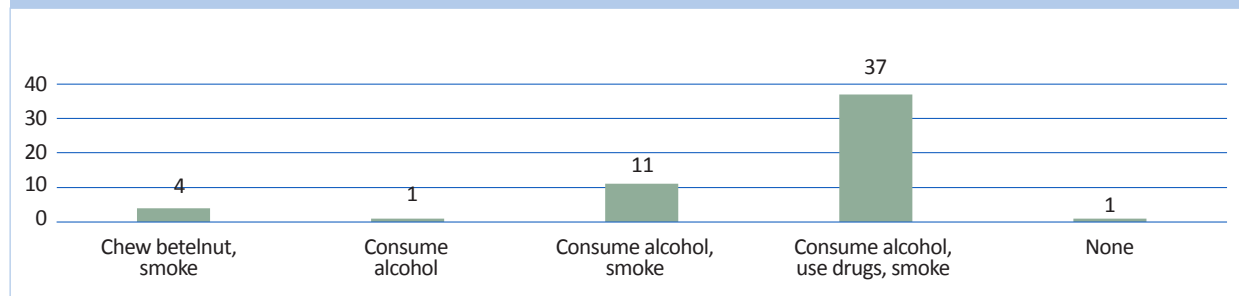
Figure 36: Condemned by your community



### 4.7.3 Other activities children get involved in

Most children in commercial sexual exploitation also engage in smoking, drinking alcohol and taking drugs. In some instances children take these substances to dull the emotional and physical trauma they go through, in other instances, alcohol and drugs are part of the lifestyle that children in commercial sexual exploitation get used to. The majority of the children interviewed in commercial sexual exploitation (37) smoke, take drugs and consume alcohol.

Figure 37: Other activities

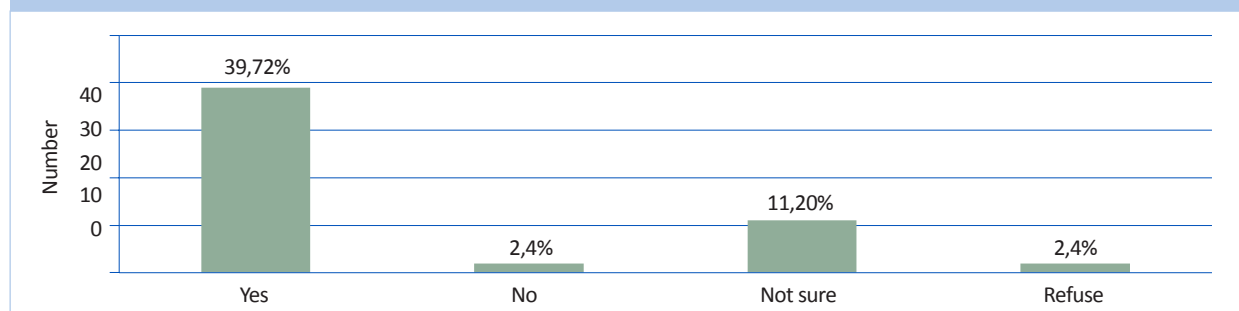


### 4.7.4 Children's perceptions of their situation

Most children agreed that selling sex for money was dangerous. When asked further to explain why they think that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a dangerous work, example responses were:

- Afraid of getting HIV/AIDS
- Being drunk and not know what she is doing or what is being done to her
- Some clients are abusive and may have diseases such as HIV AIDS
- Travelling with a drunken client at night
- It is like stealing other family's money
- It is dangerous if the wife of that person knew that I'm having sex with her husband
- Being hurt by drunk youths
- Being with clients who are drunk and hit her because she is not doing what he wants
- Taking a lot of drugs
- Having her property, including clothesMstolen while working
- Fear of getting caught by family
- When it involves drugs and drinking with people you don't know

Figure 38: Is commercial sex work dangerous at times



## 4.8 Future, dreams and aspirations

### 4.8.1 Children prefer not to be involved in commercial sexual exploitation

Of the 54 children interviewed, 37 stated that they would prefer not to be engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. However the children also indicated in their reasons for not wanting to be engaged that they would be able to leave if they found another job or became financially secure. Some children also said they would like to leave if they could go back to school. Although most children stated that they were free to stop working in commercial sex work, they could only do so if they found other means of earning income.

Figure 39: Would you prefer not to be involved in commercial sex work

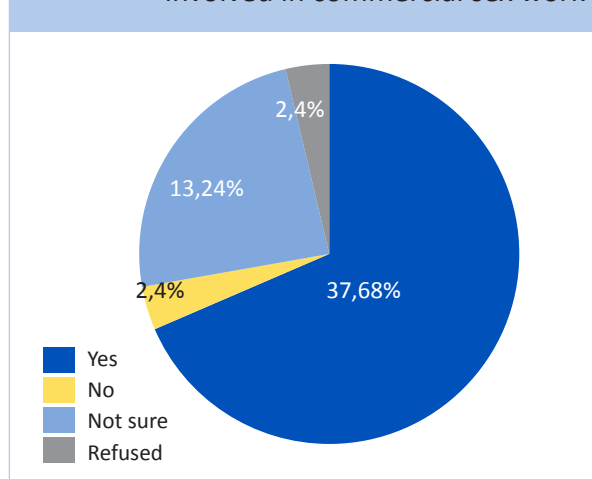
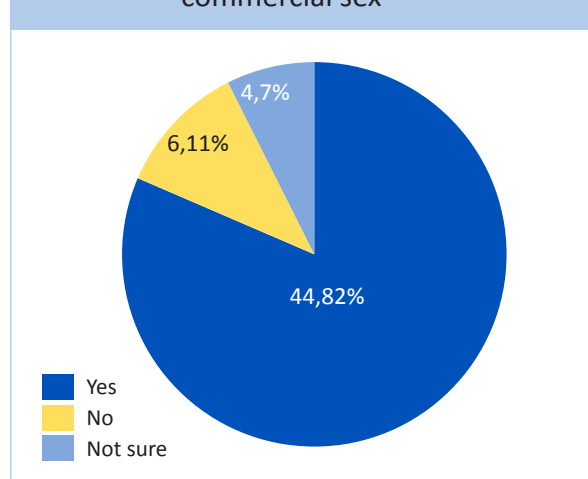


Figure 40: Free to stop working in commercial sex



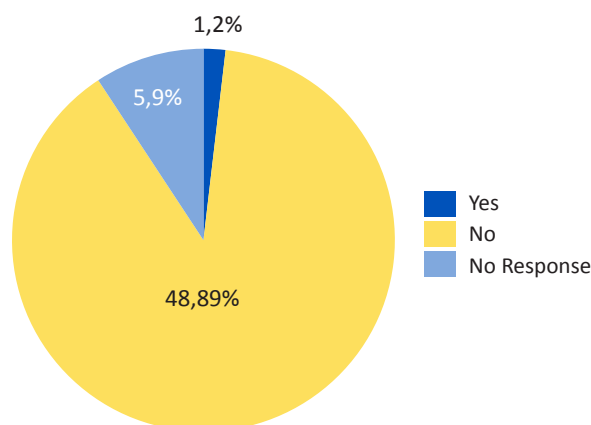
Most children also indicated that they would not like their siblings to be engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. The reasons given by the children on why they do not want their siblings to be involved in commercial sex work also illustrates some of the fears, dangers, risks and vulnerabilities of children in this activity. Some of these reasons include:

- Because it is like stealing other families money, separating families and disrespecting everybody
- Because this work is like being treated like an animal
- Brings shame to the family
- Clients don't respect you
- Would not like her siblings to be punished like her
- It is not healthy

When asked what they feared the most, some of the responses included:

- Being sent back home by the home to her relatives, father who abused her
- Getting HIV AIDS
- Family finding out and being punished or killed
- Siblings following into the same work
- Fears related to the breakdown of the child's religious and moral values

Figure 41: Do you want your siblings involved in CSE

**Narrative: 2**

Joan is 17 years old and in commercial sex work i.e. prostitution. She came to town from the Province when she was 13 years old to look after her Aunt's children. When Joan was 15 years old she was molested in her Aunt's home. She was influenced by her cousins and aunt into sex work because they always had money and was always drinking at home. Joan now has 3-4 clients per day and makes an average of \$200-\$300 daily. She spends the money on food, rent, things she needs, and gives some to the middleman (pimp). Joan has never been to school and doesn't know how to read and write. She hopes that one day she can return to her parents and have a good job. Joan said she could only leave commercial sex work if she has another job, but feels that she has no other option.

*17 year old, interviewed in Honiara*

*(name is fictional)*

## 4.8.2 Children's hopes and dreams

Children in commercial sexual exploitation do not choose to be sex workers but rather are forced into sex work because of their circumstances. Therefore most children had hopes and dreams that were mainly focused on a having a better future, a better life and a better source of income. The hopes and dreams of children included:

- Getting married and settling down with a stable, loving family
- Getting a better job
- Building a house for the parents
- Becoming a business owner
- Getting back into education and becoming qualified, completing education for a better job
- Becoming a leader in the community and sharing life experiences with community members
- Ensuring siblings complete education and get better jobs.
- Having the love and support of parents, parents getting back together again
- Being able to see that justice is done and that her abusers are punished
- To have an education and a good job
- Having a better and happy family life

## 05 Children Working or in General Child Labour Activities mainly in the Informal Sector

Over one quarter of the children interviewed who were working in the informal sector were below the age of 14 years. This represented 35% or 42 of the 118 children who were interviewed. Most children were above the minimum age of employment from 14 to 17 years old, however, an analysis of the nature of work and their working conditions is required to determine whether they are in child labour or not. Of the 118 children, 6 children are in illicit activities including begging, drug peddling and petty crime, which are worst forms of child labour. Other children are also in the worst forms of child labour in the informal sector in work considered as hazardous. As Solomon Islands is yet to elaborate a hazardous child labour list, children's age, their input about the dangers of their work and their working hours and time of work are benchmarks used to identify hazardous work.

This section provides the findings from the study on the children in general child labour activities working within the greater area of Honiara which targeted children aged between 5 years to 17 years old working in various areas of work. It reports on the findings from the rapid assessment in regards to children working in the informal sector, reporting on the characteristics, the trends and patterns, the types of work that children do, the causes and consequences of such child labour and the children's dreams and aspirations.

### 5.1 General information on working children/children in child labour

#### 5.1.1 Age, sex and gender

118 children were interviewed using the general child labour semi- structured questionnaire. Most of the children working in the informal sector that took part in the survey were males (53%) (62) and 47% (56) were females. The study included many young children: the youngest interviewed was 6 years old. The majority of the children interviewed were between 16 to 17 years of age. Using only age as a determining factor, all working children from 6-11 years, 20% or 20 children, are in child labour.

Figure 42: Age distribution of children

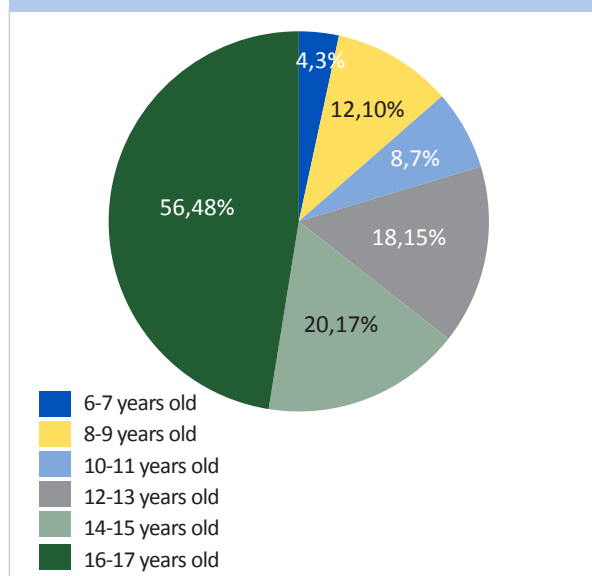


Figure 43: Gender distribution of children

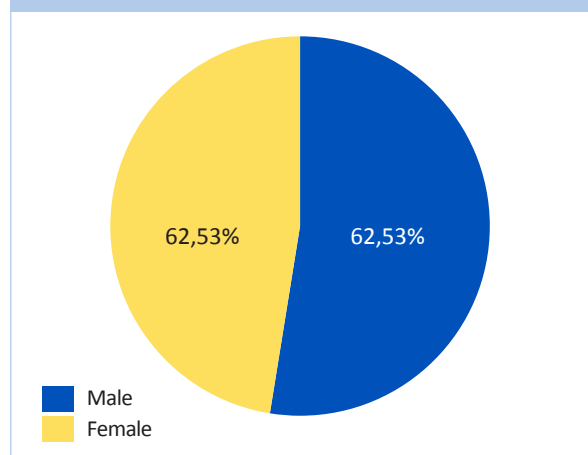


Table 6: Age distribution by gender

Age	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
6-7 years old	2	2	4
8-9 years old	6	6	12
10-11 years old	4	4	8
12-13 years old	7	11	18
14-15 years old	17	3	20
16-17 years old	26	30	56
Total	62	56	118

### 5.1.2 Living arrangements

The children were asked to state where their parents were and 41% (48) stated that both their parents were living with them. 30% (35) of the children stated that both of their parents live back in their original hometown. 'Others' responses given referred to children whose parents have separated and have each gone their separate ways without the children.

Majority of the children 53% (63) lived with their parents or parent while 33% (39) live with 'other relatives'. The one child who is on his own on the street falls in the 8 to 9 years old category. 33% (39) of the children 15 years and younger live with their parents. 41% (48) of the children who lived with their parents and who lived with other relatives are the 16 to 17 year olds – refer to Table 2

Figure 44: Where are the working children's parents

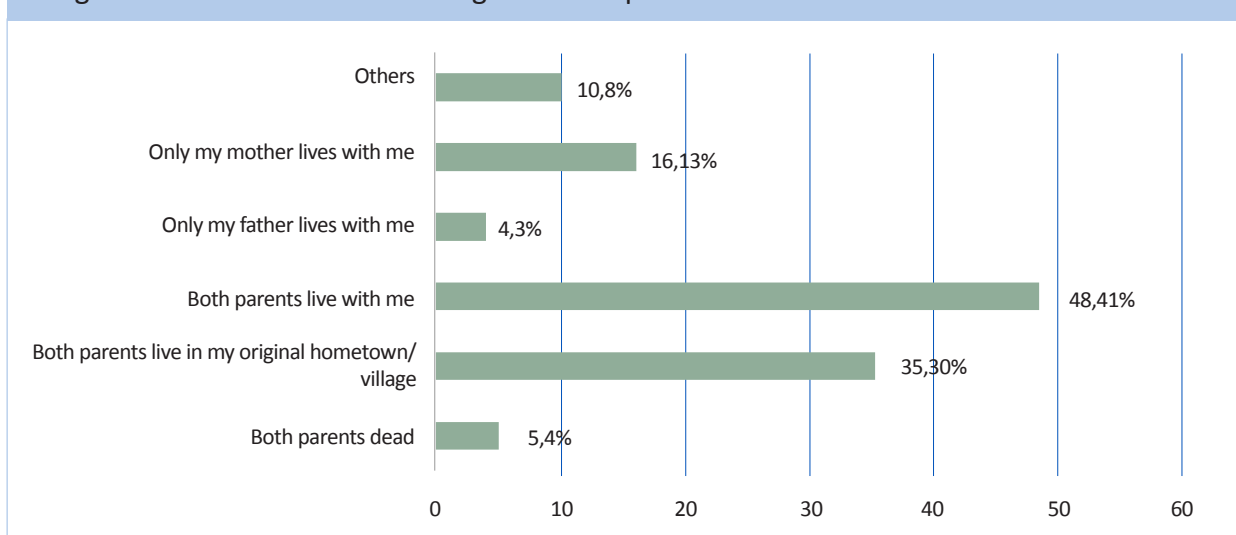


Table 7: Who do you live with by age

Age	No one, I am on my own	With parents or parent	With brother and/or sister	With other relatives	Others	Total
6-7 years old	0	3	0	1	0	4
8-9 years old	1	9	0	2	0	12
10-11 years old	0	4	1	2	1	8
12-13 years old	0	10	4	4	0	18
14-15 years old	0	13	0	6	1	20
16-17 years old	0	24	3	24	5	56
Total	1	63	8	39	7	118

Figure 45: Who do the children live with

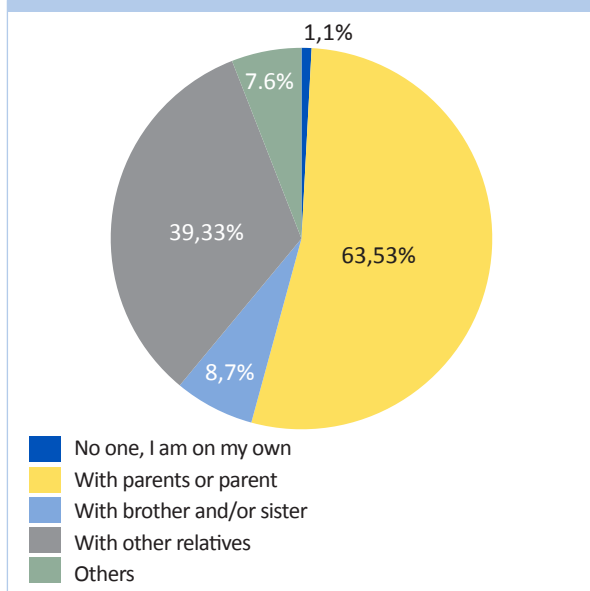
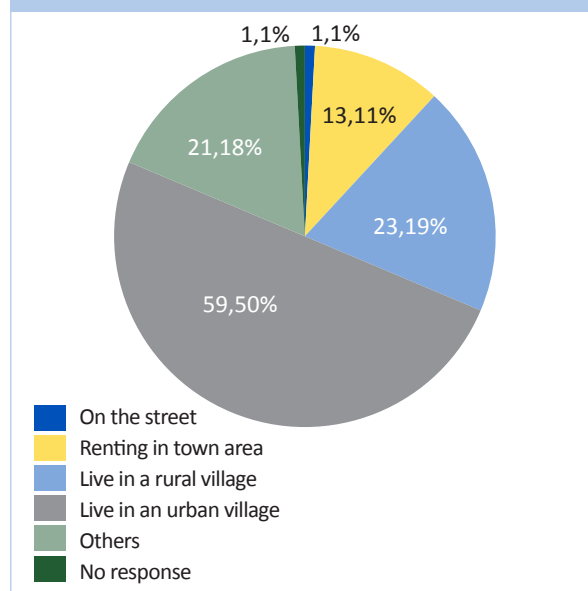


Figure 46: Where do the working children live



### 5.1.3 Reasons for living home

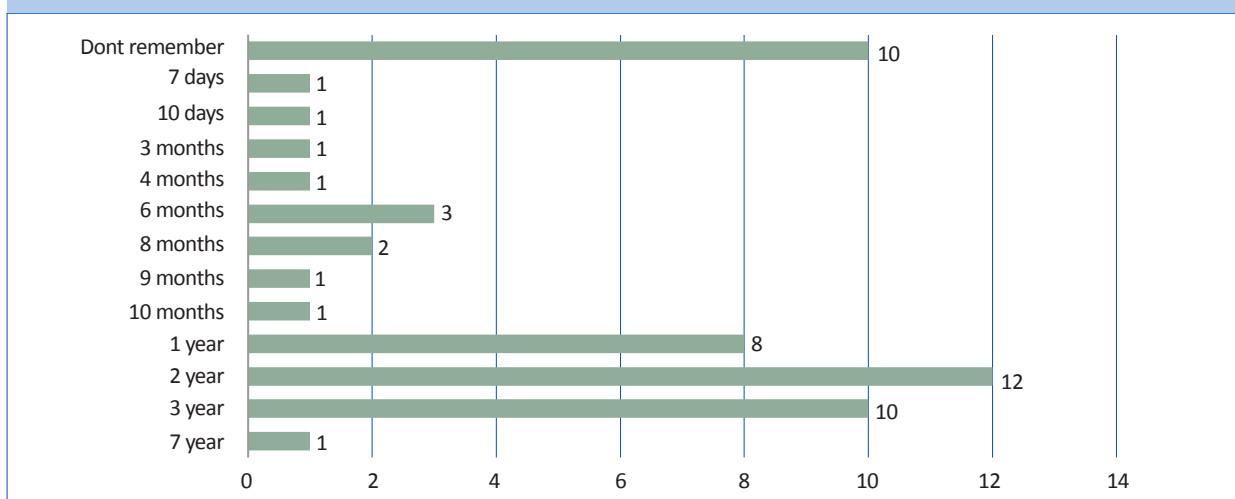
Of the 118 children who work in the informal sector, 48% (56) have left home and have moved elsewhere. These children have moved for a variety of reasons. One of the main reasons for leaving home was the disruption of the nuclear family caused by death or divorce of the parent. In some cases, the children were sent to help out at the older sibling's family, uncles' or aunties' to mind their children or do household chores. Below is a list of reasons why some of the children left home.

- Death of one or both parents
- Parents Divorced
- To go to school/ further education
- Sent away from home because pregnant/ raped
- To find job/ provide financial support to family
- To look after house/ baby for sister/brother/aunt /uncle
- To work for aunt/ uncle in small business
- Taken by relative
- Parent re-married
- Failed exams so left to find work
- Followed friends/ bright lights/ to visit

### 5.1.4 Reasons for living original home

Most children had left their original home over 1-3 years ago. In most cases parents knew about the child leaving. Over half of the children, 61% (37) of them left with their relatives and 20% (12) left with their parents.

Figure 47: How long ago have the children left original home



### 5.1.5 Who did they leave with and were parents informed?

Figure 48: Who did the children leave home with

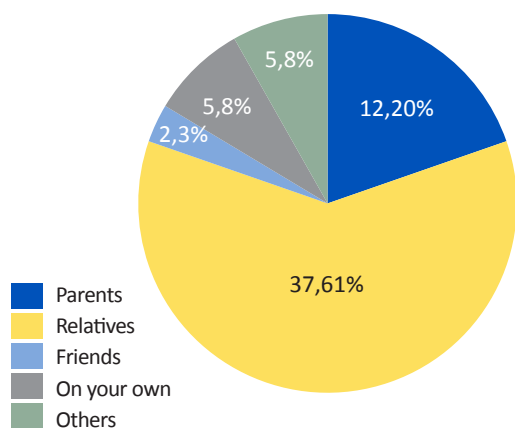


Figure 49: Were parents informed of their child leaving home

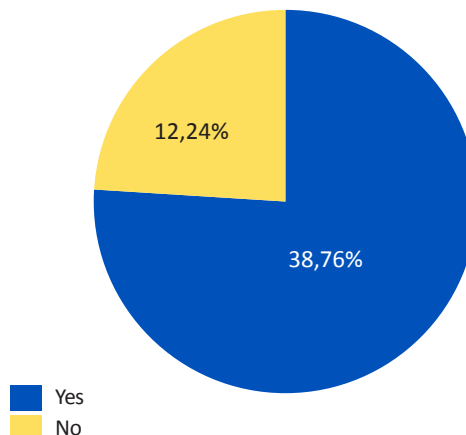
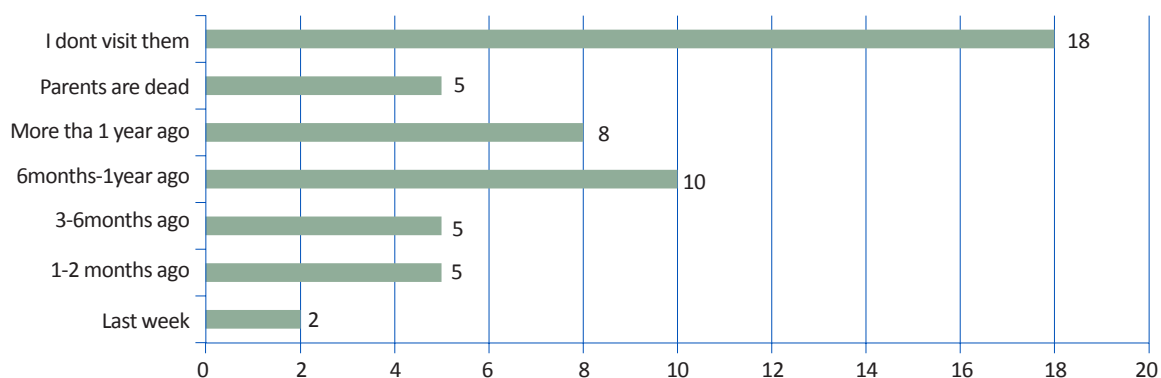


Figure 50: When did you last visit your parents



The children who have left their parents behind and have gone to stay elsewhere to work gave various reasons as to why they have not visited their parents. Due to financial constraints, far distances and deceased parent(s) were some reasons stated by the children why they cannot visit their parents. Here are some others explained by the working children:

- I don't have any money, if my aunty gives me money then I will go and visit them
- Because he does not want to visit them
- My father passed away and I stay with my relatives, my mother visits me sometimes
- Both my parents have passed away
- Because of financial problems and home is far away from where I stay
- I have been busy looking after my uncle's baby
- My father's new wife did not want me
- My father is dead and my mother stays too far away in the province
- I do not visit my father due to difficulties with transportation; I live with my mother
- Sometimes it is hard to go because of short-age of money and transport
- It is too expensive, and I do not have enough money



## 5.2 Education status of the working children/ children in child labour

### 5.2.1 Children's education status and ability to read and write

14% (16) of the 118 children who work in the informal sector have never to school. 10% (12) of the children who have never been to school are 15 years and under. A number of children who are 8 to 9 year olds who have never been to school and are involved in pick pocketing and the 16 to 17 year old in growing and selling marijuana. 30% (35) of the 118 children cannot read and 30% (35) cannot write.

Figure 51: Ever been to school

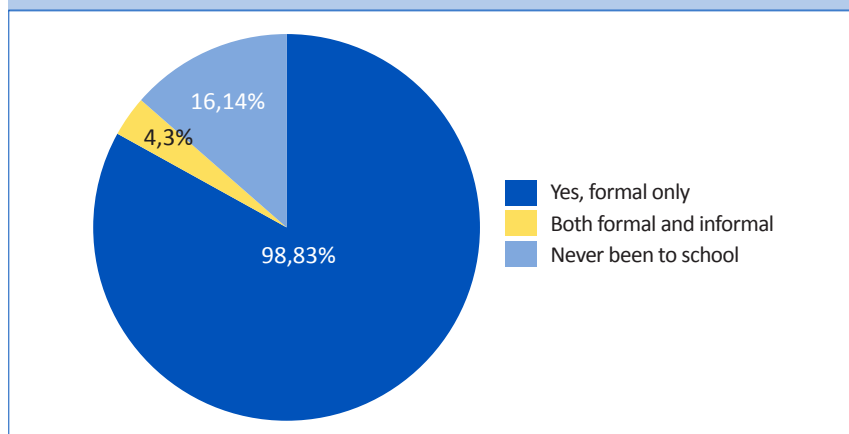


Figure 52: Percentage that can read

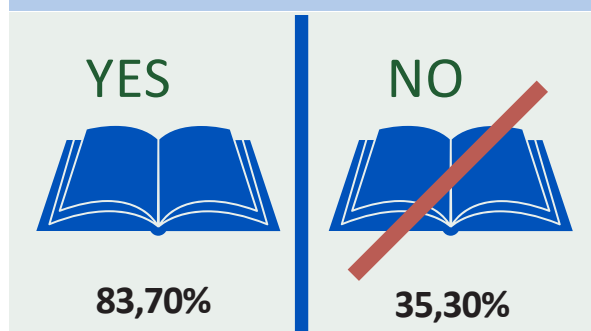


Figure 53: Percentage that can write

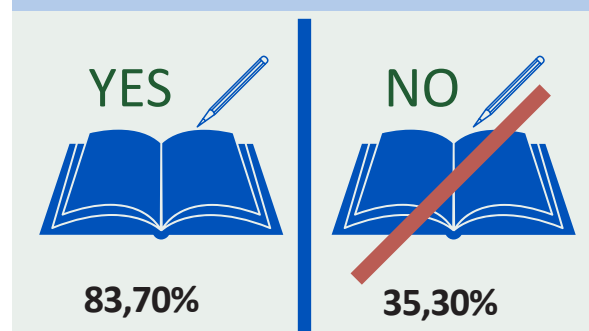


Table 8: Have you ever been to school by age

Have you ever been to school?	How old are you?						Total
	6-7 years old	8-9 years old	10-11 years old	12-13 years old	14-15 years old	16-17 years old	
Yes, formal only	3	7	5	17	18	48	98
Both formal and informal	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Never	1	5	3	1	2	4	16
	4	12	8	18	20	56	118

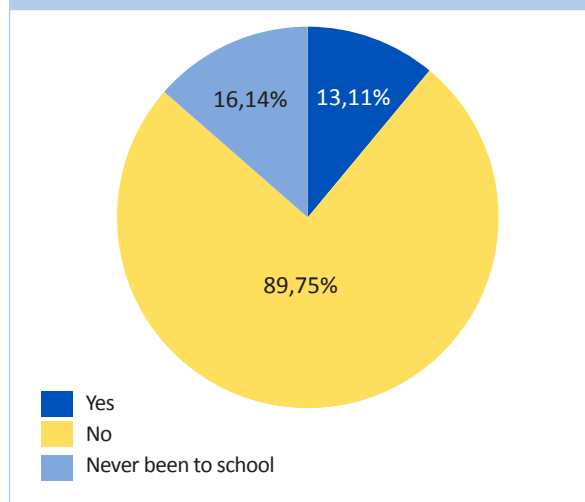
## 5.2.2 Reasons for dropping out of school

With 75% (89) dropping out from school coupled with those never been to school, only 11% (13) remain in school. It is important to note that the children will be severely disadvantaged as they miss out on the basics of reading, writing and mathematics and crucial cognitive skills.

A major reason stated for dropping out of school is financial issues. Comments on the poor facilities in schools were also suggested as a reason for abandoning school. Reasons given by children for leaving school included:

- No school fees
- Many children in the family and receiving no support from parents
- Family need financial support
- Parents separating/ death of one parent
- Sister/ brother/ relative asked him/ her to come and work for them – babysit/ household work; look after canteen, roadside stall
- Had to look after Grandparent
- Got pregnant/married
- Not interested, bored, followed peers – dropped out
- Getting into drinking alcohol and smoking
- Failed exams (in class 6 and in form 4)
- School not operating well, poor facilities, long distance to school
- Parents fighting daily
- Flood in April – stopped going to school

Figure 54: Still in school



### Narrative: 3

Wally is 16 years old. He lives with his parents. Wally and his parents moved from an outer island to Honiara in 2011 to make a living in town. Wally had started his education at a school in his village and continued on with school when they moved to Honiara. Unfortunately Wally didn't complete his education in town due to school fee problems and not contributing to school programs. His education ended at standard five. Wally had many friends when they moved to Honiara. They started influencing him to get involved in other activities such as smoking marijuana and consuming kwaso (illegal home-made alcohol). Wally got involved in those activities and started working as a drug seller. He purchases marijuana from other drug sellers and rolls them up into small rolls and sells them his product to individuals, students for \$2.00 each. He sells his products at the community market stalls, in the streets and at the night clubs. Sometimes some officers purchase his products from him. He moves from one night club to another. He works from 10pm to 6am in the morning and earns \$150.00 per night depending on customers. Wally goes into this business in order to buy clothes and other things for himself, also to help his family in their day to day living. Wally handles his products carefully and has to handle illegal stuff in public places. Even though Wally enjoys selling his products, he also fears that he might get caught by the police for selling illegal goods. He sells his products only at night times. He sometimes experiences tiredness and has restless moments.

*16 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

**Narrative: 4**

Bela is 8 years old. She lives with her parents and her two twin sisters. Bela is the eldest child in the family. The family source of income is what they produce from their garden. Bela started standard one, but had to drop out of school before the year ended to sell vegetables in order to earn money. She had to do this mainly to support her family as her dad is incapable of doing anything as he is sick. Bela's mother finds it hard to things on her own which and relies on Bela. Her job is to look after her two sisters in the morning from 8am to 12pm while her mother goes out to the gardens to collect vegetables and other things to sell. In the afternoon around 3pm, Bela carries the vegetables to the market, a 45 minute walk from their house. She usually head carries an aluminum dish of vegetables weighing around 10kg. Bela is allowed to use \$5 only from the sales of the products. She was warned by her parents not to use more than that. If she did, she would have been beaten up. When asked whether she enjoys the work or not, she said that she enjoyed it since there were other kids doing the same work as well. She has very little time to play with other kids as she also does other things such as washing dishes after dinner. Bela is tired every day.

*8 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

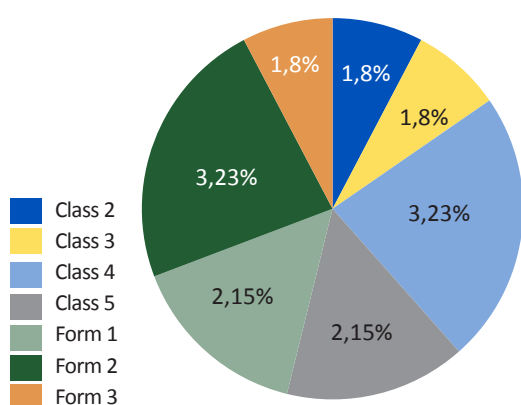
### 5.2.3 Working children who are still in school

Although there are 13 working children who are still in school, many stated that they work after school or miss school often on a weekly basis to work. This disadvantages them further as they may not have sufficient time to reflect on lessons learnt from school, reading time, homework and revision exercises. Using age, types of work and hours of work as indicators, all working children in school are in child labour.

Types of work that the in-school children are involved in include:

- Cleans up at market stall, dump green waste, sweep markets
- Street cleaner, picks rubbish, cut grass
- Street vending, selling betel nut, coconut
- Work at bottle factory, house building (construction), brick layering, cementing posts

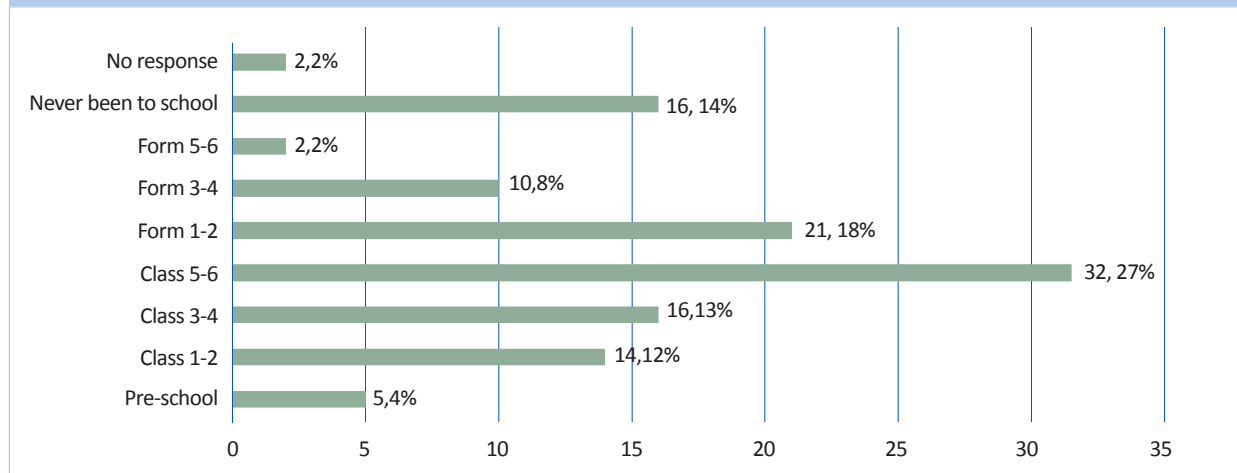
Figure 55: Class of in-school working children



### 5.2.4 Highest class reached by working children

The highest class reached by most working children was Classes 5-6, followed by children reaching Classes 7-8 (Forms 1-2). This represents the level of education where children are most vulnerable to dropping out of school for various reasons such as following their peers, being absent for too many days, falling behind in their school work, and spending more time working.

Figure 56: Highest class reached by the working children



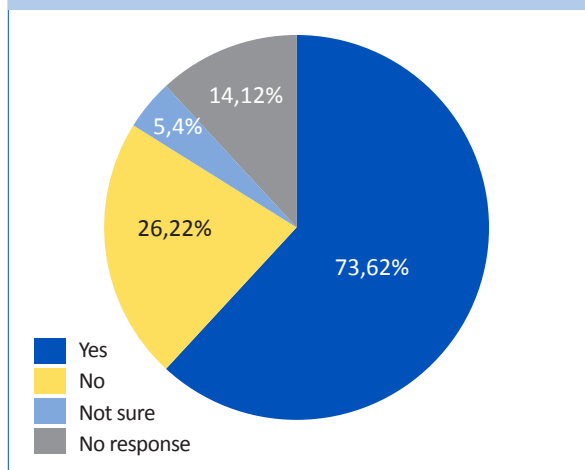
### 5.2.5 Aspirations of working children regarding education

It is interesting to note of the overwhelming response 63% (72) of working children who stated that they are keen to return and continue with school as they have clearly stated their desire to get a better job, earn more and be guaranteed a better future.

The children were probed further about their choice of the possibility of returning to school. A good 73, 62% of the working children were keen to return to school if at all possible. The following are comments made by working children on reasons why they would like to go back to school:

- To learn new things
- To go back to primary school
- Willing to attend any literacy classes
- Because he wants to be like other children that attend school
- Because he wants to be somebody in the future
- Gain more knowledge and get to a higher level university
- He is still keen to learn
- He really wants to go back to school but in a vocational training school
- She wants to become a nurse
- So that she can have a chance to know how to read and write
- To learn more skills and knowledge to help him in the future
- To upgrade his standards of educational background
- To gain knowledge and skills to teach children
- Wants a bright future, still interested in studying
- So that he may gain knowledge to manage / how to run a business

Figure 57: Given the chance would you like to go back to school



### 5.3 Types of work and working conditions

Children working in the informal sector are involved in different types of work. The most common types of work for this cohort are shop assistants and children engaged in street vending. The shop assistants help in serving the customers, restocking of goods on the shelf, sweep, mop, and dust the shop area. Goods range from phone recharge cards, soft drinks, small confectionary items.

#### 5.3.1 All children interviewed were in work to earn an income or get paid in some form

Out of the need for financial stability, each of the children interviewed stated that they each work to earn an income or get paid in one way or another. The children were as young as 6-7 years old. Close to half of the working children are in the 16-17 years old category alone.

Table 9: Do you do any form of work where you earn an income or get paid in some other form or way?

Do you do any form of work where you earn an income or get paid in some other form or way?		How old are you?						Total
		6-7 years old	8-9 years old	10-11 years old	12-13 years old	14-15 years old	16-17 years old	
	<b>Yes</b>	4	12	8	18	20	56	118
Total		4	12	8	18	20	56	118

#### 5.3.2 Age when children started working to earn income

Most children indicated that they had started working years ago. When asked later how old they were when they first started working, most children started working between the ages of 15-17 years old and 12-14 years old. It is important to note that there were children who started as early as 6-8 years old.

Figure 59: Did you have to stop school to start work?

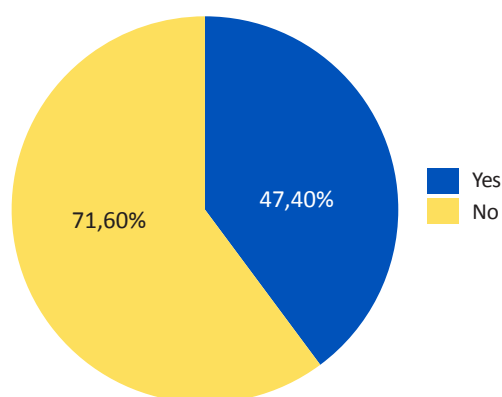
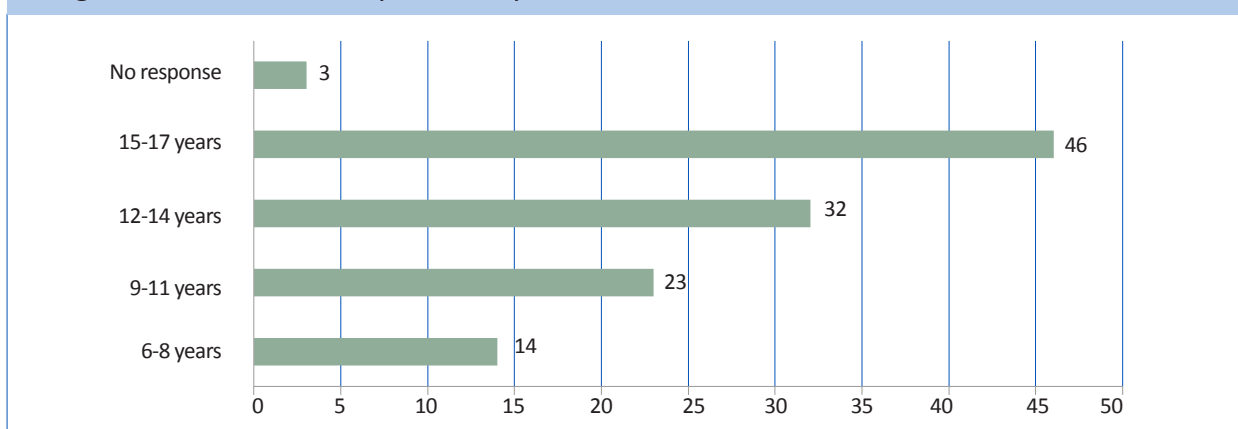


Figure 58: How old were you when you started this work



### 5.3.3 Type or category of work

Generally children who were interviewed were in a range of work including the worst forms of child labour in illicit activities such as begging, pickpocketing and drug cultivation and peddling. Hazardous types of work, which also falls in the category of worst forms of child labour could also include loading, unloading and moving cargo, scavenging, construction, brick layering and mechanical work. Considering other factors such as age and hours of work, “*who the children worked for?*” and starting and ending times, provide a better understanding of children’s working conditions and determine whether these conditions were hazardous and conditions of child labour. The following tables show the distribution of children per category of work by gender and per category of work by age. Most of the females interviewed were in street vending, market vending, shop assistants or cashiers and/ or as domestic workers for other families. The table below shows the distribution of children per category of work by age. It is interesting to note that children below 12 years old are in the worst forms of child labour including illicit activities and hazardous work.

Table 10: Category of work by Gender

Category of work	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Domestic- own family	2	6	8
Street vending	10	8	18
Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	6	7	13
Market vending	5	13	18
Farming- own family	1	1	2
Mechanical-Spraying and cleaning cars	1	0	1
Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	6	0	6
Construction - Furniture making	3	0	3
Loading, unloading, moving cargo	3	0	3
Bus Conductor car wash	3	0	3
Street cleaning	1	5	6
Packing of beer bottles - cans	2	1	3
Scavenging -collecting tins, bottles, cans	2	0	2
Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	4	4	8
Digging drains and wells	1	0	1
Security Guard	1	0	1
Begging	1	0	1
Pickpocketing	2	0	2
Drug cultivation and peddling	2	0	2
Bartender	0	1	1
Domestic- relatives	0	5	5
Domestic- other families	1	3	4
Farming- other families	3	1	4
Cook, Kitchen hand	1	0	1
Fishing	1	0	1
Designing lavalava	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>118</b>

**Narrative: 5**

John lived in Honiara for almost four years since he left his parents from Malaita province. John is eight years old who was handicapped with financial problems. John's father has no permanent job and his mother is a house wife where they only survive mainly on garden food. He left his original home town with his relatives to the capital city. John expected to receive much financial support from his relatives in Honiara but when he didn't he started to get involved with other children strolling in the town looking for people who had lots of money doing shopping in the supermarket and central market. Their daily work in the street is to pick pocket those people who have a lot of money. John has never attended any education before, his daily work is to go with other children picking people's pocket for money. He earns \$100-\$200 per day and uses that money to buy clothes, food and he sends some of his money to his parents at home. Every day John sits on the street watching the movement of people and works with other children who distract people while he pick pockets them for money. Sometimes his family forces him to do that type of work to support the family financially. John wants to attend school if he is given the chance.

*8 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

**Table 11: Category of work by age and gender**

Age	Category of Work	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
6-7 years old	Street vending	1	0	1
	Street cleaning	0	1	1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	0	1	1
	Farming- other families	1	0	1
		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
8-9 years old	Domestic- own family	0	2	2
	Street vending	0	1	1
	Market vending	1	1	2
	Farming- own family	0	1	1
	Scavenging -collecting tins, bottles, cans	1	0	1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	3	1	4
	Pickpocketing	1	0	1
		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
10-11 years old	Street vending	1	0	1
	Market vending	0	2	2
	Scavenging -collecting tins, bottles, cans	1	0	1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	1	1	2
	Digging drains and wells	1	0	1
	Domestic- relatives	0	1	1
		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>





12-13 years old	Domestic- own family	1	2	3
	Street vending	0	2	2
	Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	1	0	1
	Market vending	2	2	4
	Farming- own family	1	0	1
	Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	1	0	1
	Street cleaning	0	2	2
	Begging	1	0	1
	Domestic- relatives	0	2	2
	Domestic- other families	0	1	1
		<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>
14-15 years old	Domestic- own family	1	0	1
	Street vending	6	1	7
	Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	1	0	1
	Market vending	1	0	1
	Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	2	0	2
	Construction - Furniture making	2	0	2
	Bus Conductor car wash	1	0	1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	0	1	2
	Domestic- relatives	0	1	1
	Domestic- other families	1	0	1
	Farming- other families	1	0	1
	Fishing	1	0	1
		<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
16-17 years old	Domestic- own family	0	2	2
	Street vending	2	4	6
	Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	4	7	11
	Market vending	1	8	9
	Mechanical-Spraying and cleaning cars	1	0	1
	Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	3	0	3
	Construction - Furniture making	1	0	1
	Loading, unloading, moving cargo	3	0	3
	Bus Conductor car wash	2	0	2
	Street cleaning	1	2	3
	Packing of beer bottles - cans	2	1	3
	Security Guard	1	0	1
	Pickpocketing	1	0	1
	Drug cultivation and peddling	2	0	2
	Bartender	0	1	1
	Domestic- relatives	0	1	1
	Domestic- other families	0	2	2
	Farming- other families	1	1	2
	Cook, Kitchen hand	1	0	1
	Designing lavalava	0	1	1
		<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>56</b>



### 5.3.4 Type of work, hours of work and education status

From Table 12, it is possible to clearly see the children who are still in school and are at risk due to the category of work they are doing, the long hours of work they keep and how old they are. Working children who are in school should have sufficient time to rest and spend time with their school work preparations. There are some category of work that the children are involved in like begging, pickpocketing and drug cultivation and drug peddling to say the least are the worst forms of child labour including illicit activities and hazardous work. Then there are the children who are not in school and those who have never been to school.

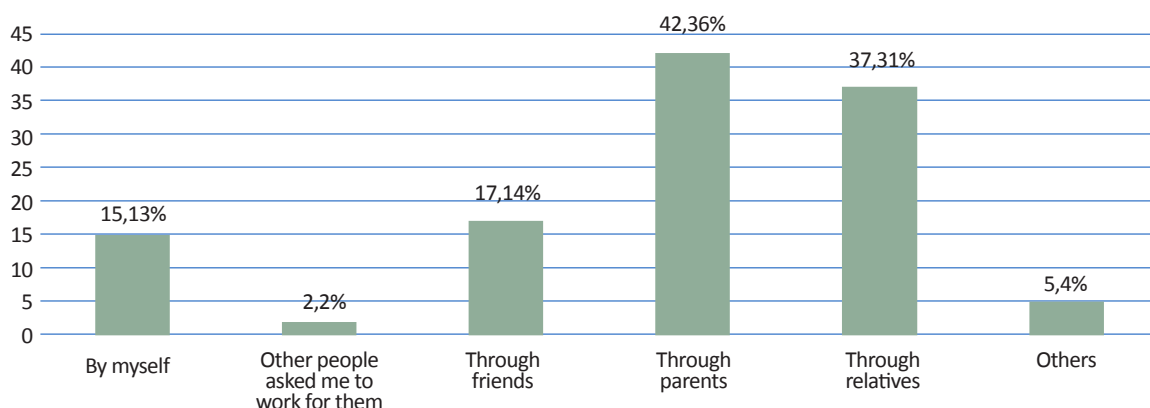
Table 12: Category of work by age, hours of work for children who have never been to school

 Type of work	 Age		 Hours					 Never been to school
	6-13 years	14-17 years	1-4 hours	5-8 hours	9-12 hours	>12 hours	No set time	
Street vending	1	3		2		1	1	4
Market vending		1				1		1
Packing of beer bottles - cans	1			1				1
Scavenging -collecting tins, bottles, cans	4		1		3		1	5
Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	1			1				1
Begging	1					1		1
Pickpocketing	1				1			1
Drug cultivation and peddling		1	1					1
Domestic- other families	1			1				1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>

### 5.3.5 How did you find work?

According to Figure 60, Parents and relatives make up 67% (79) of the people who find work for the children, and 'friends' and 'myself' make up 27% (32). This indicates that parents need or encourage the children to work to provide for the family necessities. The need for income for the family is a major reason for looking for work for their children, thus poverty is a major contributing factor to child labour in Honiara.

Figure 60: How did children find work?



#### Narrative: 6

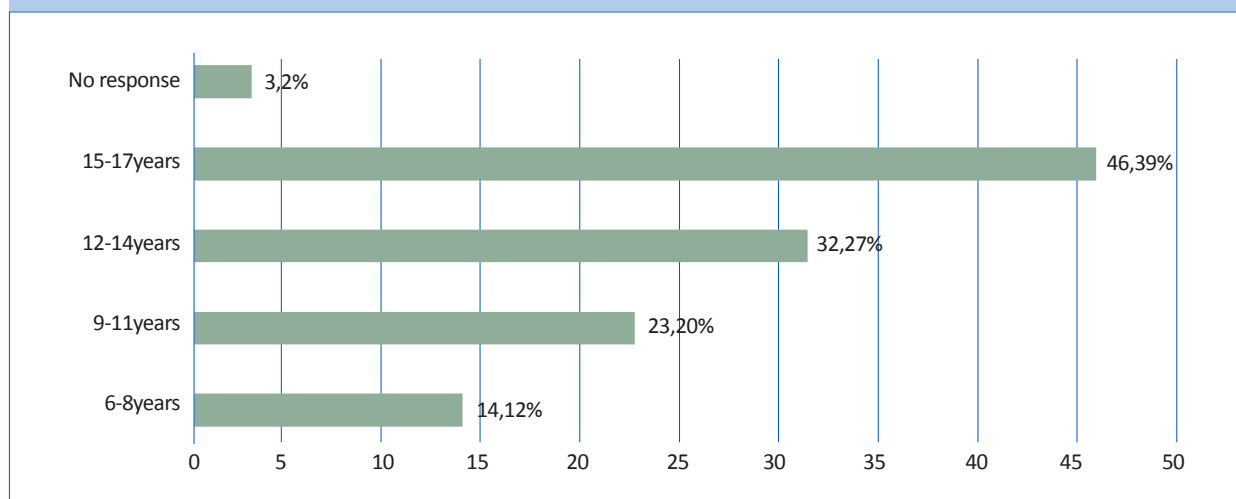
Mandy lives with her cousin sister and is 16 years old. Her family are back in the village, this includes her mother, brothers and sisters. Mandy left to go to town last year and found a job. She is working for a businessman as a house girl. Every morning she usually walks from where she lives to work. It takes her thirty to forty minutes the place. She works from Monday to Friday, from 8am to 4:30pm in the evenings. Mandy washes clothes and dishes, dusts window louvers, weeding around the house, sweeping and cleaning inside the house. She earns \$500 fortnightly and uses the money to meet her family needs such as paying for kitchen utensils, gardening tools, clothes for her little brothers and sisters and other things. During her free time, Saturday and Sunday, She usually does other house work like washing, cooking and sometimes she looks after her cousin's children. During Christmas periods she goes home to see her family, she usually spends two weeks and then goes back to resume work. Mandy went to school but only reached form four at secondary level. She stopped going to school because her mom couldn't afford her school fees. However, she really wants to go back to school to complete her study and to gain more knowledge and skills. Her hope is to raise her family in a good standard of living and her dream is that one day she will have a good job.

*16 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

### 5.3.6 How old were you when you first started working?

46 of the working children started work when they were 15-17 years old, 32 started when they were 12-14 years old, 23 started when they were 9-11 years old and 14 stated that they started work when they were 6-8 years old. 32% of the working children started work when they were 11 years old and younger. Close to 60% of the working children started work when they were 14 years old and younger.

Figure 61: How old were the children when they started work



#### Narrative: 7

My name is Jane and I am 17 years old. My father is back at my original home with my two sisters and my brother I left my original home two years ago when I was 15 years old. I left my family due to financial problems that we were facing which had led us to poverty, this included not enough money for school fees, no proper clothing and house hold needs, and other things as well. I am now living with my uncle. I have a job as a store keeper. Every morning I usually walk from where I live to the shop. This takes thirty minutes. I work from Monday to Friday, from 8am in the morning to 4:30pm in the evening. I work with three people. I don't enjoy the work because it keeps me busy every day, standing whole day to serve customers, stacking cargo, dusting goods and items and carrying heavy bales and canteens to the store room but I get paid \$500 fortnightly. I spend my money on family needs and wants such as clothing, kitchen utensils, and stationaries for siblings, food, as well as own needs and wants. I went to school but only reached form 4 level. I didn't manage to complete my education because my father could not afford to pay for our school fees. So I stopped going to school and found this job. I would like to continue schooling to learn more knowledge and skills. I hope to have a good job in the future and my dream is to become a woman leader in my community.

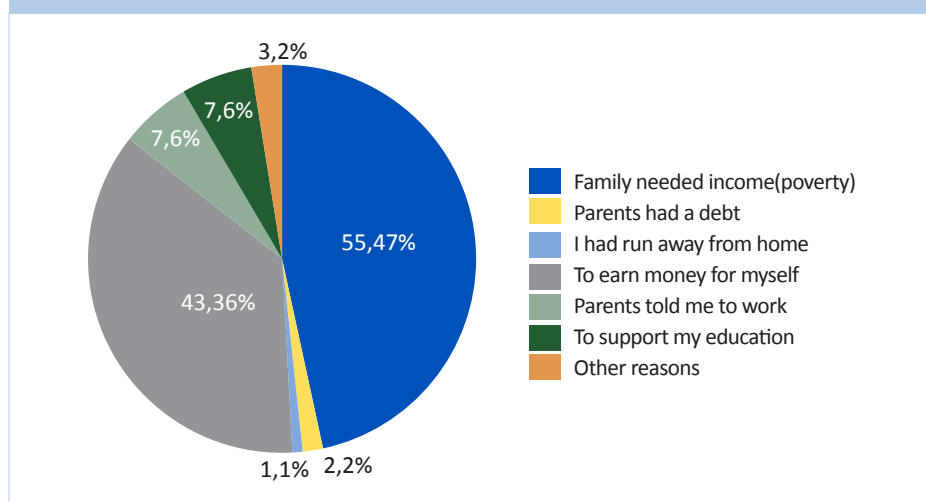
*17 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

### 5.3.7 Reasons for going into work?

Poverty is the main reason that 55 children (47%) stated was their reason for going into work and next up at 43 (36%) is 'to earn money for myself'. Further details as to why the children had to work were:

- Always watched his father doing his job so in the end became interested in this type of job
- Wanted own money instead of asking for it all the time
- She had to start work because her mother ran away with a new boyfriend and her father got newly married
- She started work because her relatives told her to, because her relatives would sometimes not have enough money to survive
- Her parents borrowed money from her uncle so she needed to work off the debt
- Because she did nothing after leaving school, she had to do something to have money as it was custom that girls do work
- He needs to work for his aunt's family as she is a widow with 3 children

Figure 62: Why children had to start work



### 5.3.8 Who do you work for?

The majority of working children work for family, relatives or are self-employed. In the case of self-employed children, income earned is in many cases also used to support either family or relatives.

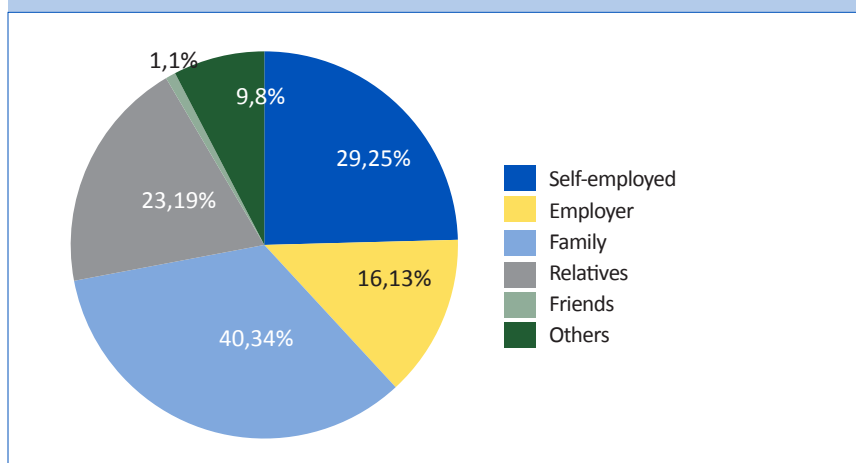
Table 13: Category of work by Who do you work for

Category of work	Self-employed	Employer	Family	Relatives	Friends	Others	Total
Domestic- own family	1	3	3	1	0	0	8
Street vending	6	0	7	4	0	1	18
Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	0	4	3	3	0	3	13
Market vending	5	0	10	3	0	0	18
Farming- own family	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Mechanical-Spraying and cleaning cars	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	1	0	3	1	1	0	6
Construction - Furniture making	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Loading, unloading, moving cargo	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Bus Conductor car wash	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Street cleaning	1	2	2	0	0	1	6
Packing of beer bottles - cans	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Scavenging -collecting tins, bottles, cans	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	3	0	4	1	0	0	8
Digging drains and wells	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Security Guard	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Begging	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pickpocketing	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Drug cultivation and peddling	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bartender	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Domestic- relatives	0	0	2	3	0	0	5
Domestic- other families	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
Farming- other families	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
Cook, Kitchen hand	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fishing	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Designing lavalava	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>118</b>

Considering all the different types of work that the children are working in, a good majority 36, (31%) are into market vending and street vending and these children are either working for their families or for themselves. 40 (34%) of the working children work for family

Most of the children worked for their family 34% (40), those who were self-employed 25% (29), some had an employer 13% (16), while some worked for their relatives 18% (23) or worked for their friends 1% (1). It was the older children who predominantly worked for all the different categories of “who the children worked for”.

Figure 63: Who do the children work for



#### Narrative: 8

10 year old Lawrence starts working at 5am scavenging along the streets to collect empty bottles and metals from drums and along the roadside and nightclubs. As he collects bottles he often comes across drunks and people swearing at him and telling to go back home. He collects up to two bags a day. For 5 bags he earns \$200. If he meets relatives, he will ask them for money and is also on the look-out for opportunities to pick pocket. Lawrence wants to go back to school and become a teacher in the future.

*10 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

Table 14: Who do you work for by age

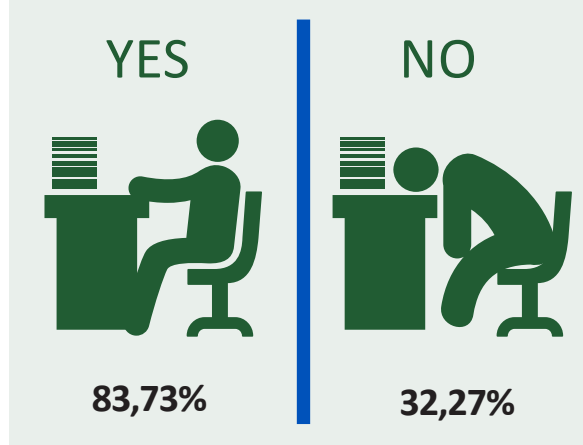
		Who do you work for?						Total
		Self-employed	Employer	Family	Relatives	Friends	Others	
How old are you?	6-7 years old	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
	8-9 years old	4	2	5	1	0	0	12
	10-11 years old	3	0	5	0	0	0	8
	12-13 years old	2	2	9	5	0	0	18
	14-15 years old	8	0	8	4	0	0	20
	16-17 years old	11	11	11	13	1	9	56
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>118</b>

### 5.3.9 Do you enjoy the work that you do

The majority of children indicated that they enjoyed the work that they do. Some of the reasons why they enjoy the work that they do given by the children are listed below:

- Gets paid with money after work
- Can afford to help his brother and sisters since his parents passed away years ago
- Can have income
- Earn money and buy his own needs
- I do not depend on anyone and I sweat for my own money
- Earns a lot of money in a short period of time
- Earns a lot of money including extra money from his uncle
- Earns money and meets up with his friends who come to the restaurant
- Gets the chance to travel the provinces and gets paid for what he does
- Gets to know more on farming tips on how to plant and grow the vegetables that he plants
- Enjoys meeting people
- Because he smokes marijuana and feels high all the time
- Because he works for money to buy his beer
- Because her and her parents benefit from it
- Because his relatives help him in what he does
- When he looks after the pigs and when he sees that they are healthy and growing and happy
- Because it is not hard work

Figure 64: Do you enjoy the work that you do?



### 5.3.10 Sickness or injury as a result of the work that you do

Some of the working children mentioned that they fell ill at some point as a result of their work. Slightly more than half of the interviewed working children 61 (52%) stated that they were sick or injured as a result of their work.

The sickness and injury ranged from a common cold to a cut from a broken beer bottle, headache, measles, flu and malaria.

Figure 65: Have you ever been sick or injured as a result of your work

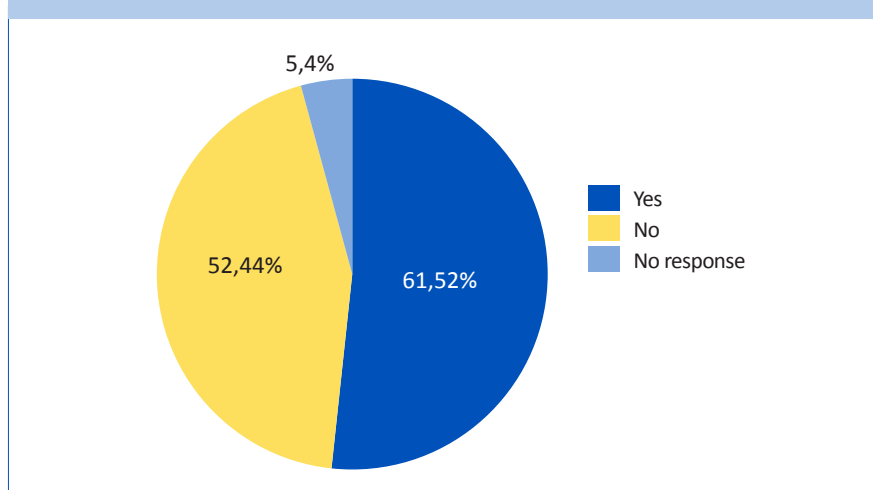
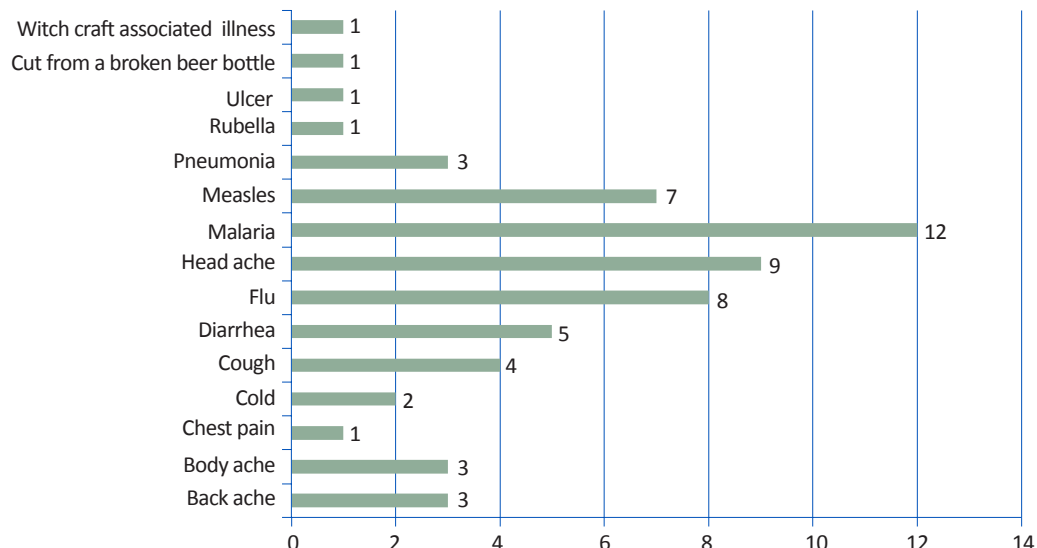


Figure 66: Sickness and injury as a result of your work



### 5.3.11 How sickness and injury affected work

Reasons stated by the working children on how their work will be affected by their sickness or injury:

- There is a shortage of staff at work
- I do not earn anything when I am absent due to my injury or sickness
- No one is there to sell the fish and chips
- Sales for the business on the day I am absent is lost

### 5.3.12 Do you wear protective gear

For some children they claim that use protective clothing or gear while working. Although a large number of children stated that they do not use any protective gear, it will be interesting to note the different types of protective clothing and gear that the children use.

These are the protective clothing and gear that the children stated they use when out working.

- Bush shoe and hat
- Dirty clothes for work
- Gloves, hairclips and uniform
- Apron
- Raincoat
- Long sleeve shirt and long pants
- Safety boots
- Safety clothing for cooking

Figure 67: Did your sickness or injury affect your work

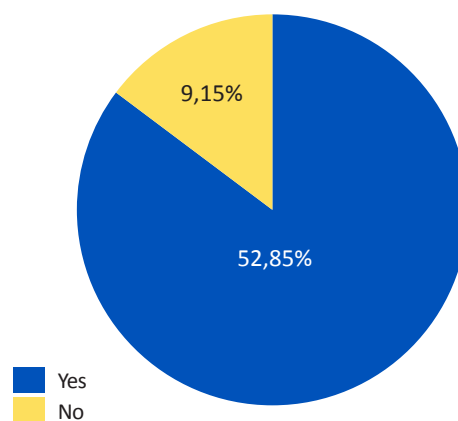
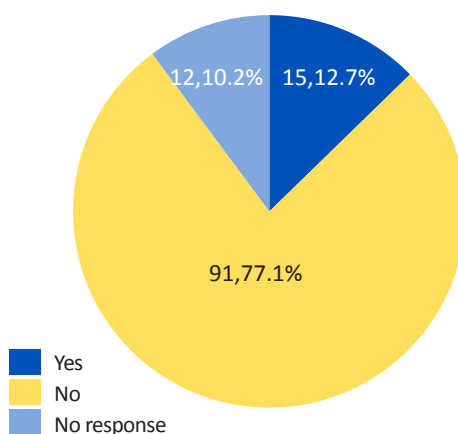


Figure 68: Use of protective clothing or gear while working?





**Narrative: 9**

A sixteen year old girl was sent to stay with her aunty to live in Honiara, for her safety. She was sexually abused by someone she knew. Her parents would not report the case because the perpetrator was a close relative. This happened two years ago. Whilst living with her aunty, she was engaged in a lot of heavy work, she has to get up very early in the mornings to go the market to buy bags of kumara and fish to make “fish and chips” to sell at the market. This job is done every day of the week without rest. After taking her “fish and chips” to sell, she goes back and starts preparing and cleaning her work area for the next day’s cooking and preparation. She also has to wash the household clothes, and then starts preparing the evening meal for the family each day.

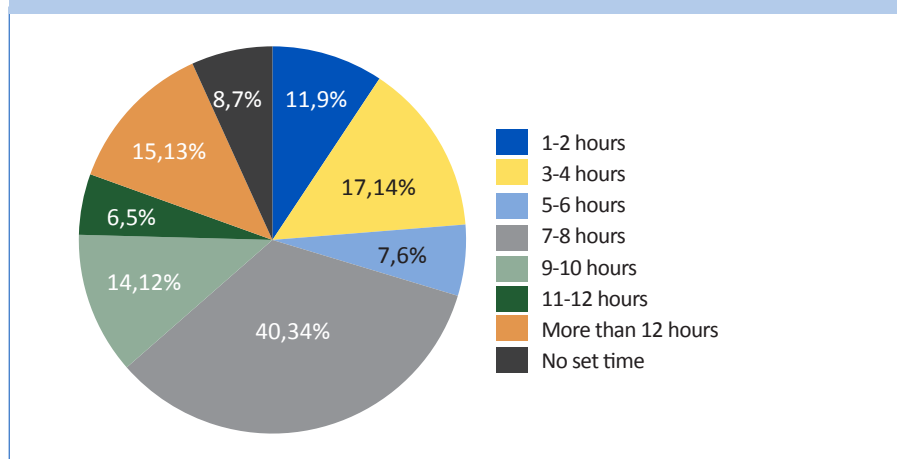
*“I am very tired, I don’t have any rest, only Sundays, I don’t have to make “fish and chips” but I still have to do the housework from morning till night. Maybe because I was sexually abused by my relative, my parents do not want me to go back home to them. I am very tired and confused. I earn \$500-\$600 each day selling “fish and chips” and at the end of each month, my aunty pays me \$500. I feel this amount of money is too small as I am the only one buying the product, preparing, cooking and selling and then cleaning and preparing again every day. Maybe because of what happened to me at home, they treat me as someone who is bad and use this hard labour. I don’t know but I feel depressed and not worth anything to anybody anymore. This is how I feel.”*

*16 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

### 5.3.13 Hours of work per day

Of particular concern is the number of hours per day, which highlight that 13% or 15 children work over 12 hours daily, 5% or 6 children work between 11-12 hours and 12% or 14 children work over 9-10 hours per day. This 30% or 35 children work beyond the recommended hours of work for children above the minimum legal age of employment and therefore may be classified as children in child labour.

Figure 69: How many hours a day do the children spend on their work



### 5.3.14 Remuneration

Most children are paid in cash, although there were children who stated that they didn't get paid at all, and children who stated that they get paid in kind. The majority working children stated that they earn \$100-\$200 a week. To the question 'What do you spend your money on?' the following responses show that the children's earnings are distributed to parents, siblings, extended family and on themselves:

- Save money to send back to parents in their home village
- For personal use and to support grandmother
- Buy food for household, gives money to parents, buys clothes, shoes
- Buy sweets, twisties (snacks) and biscuits
- Uses the money for own needs and wants as well as giving some money to his aunty to buy food and other stuff
- Save and also build a house in the squatters for her mother and siblings
- Buy food and clothes for wife
- Buy food, clothes and things needed for school
- Save money to give to grandparent
- Uses money to support mother, help siblings, pay school fees for siblings
- Uses money to support adopted parents
- Uncle takes a part of it and rest is used to help siblings
- Uses money to help her mother, sister, brother and herself
- She spends her money to help her parents and to meet her own needs and wants
- Savings, a tenth is offered in church, the rest is spent on food, betel nuts, smoke, fundraising

Figure 70: How are the children paid

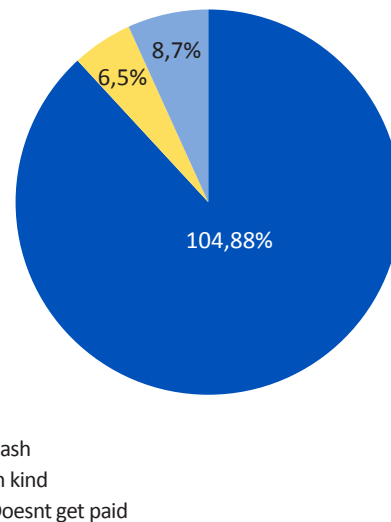
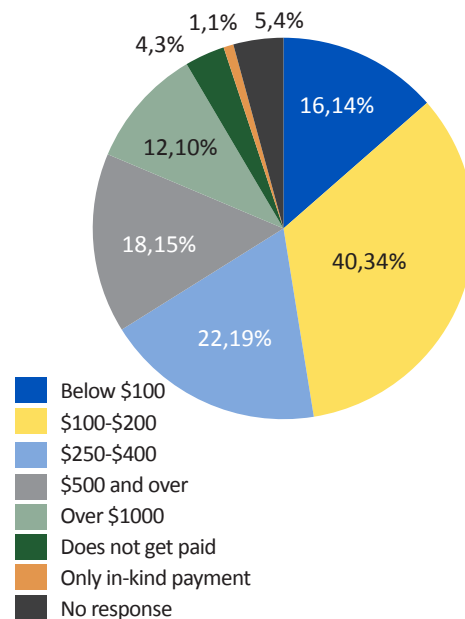


Figure 71: Average earnings in a week



## 5.4 Children's challenges at work

Children find certain challenges in their daily lives as they go about in the preparation of their product to sell and in the process of selling. The working children are involved in various types of work, for example selling betel nut, making furniture, cooking fish and chips, market vending and domestic duties to name a few. The children have shared in this section what they enjoy and what they do not enjoy about their work and how they survive on the street.

### 5.4.1 What do you enjoy about your work

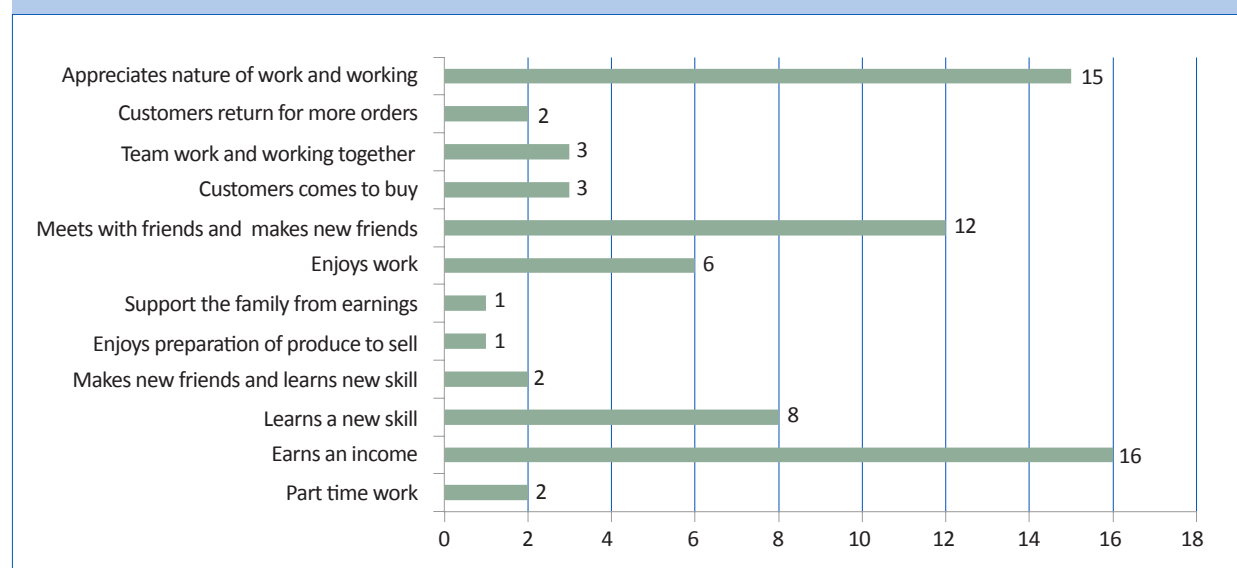
Of the working children that responded most of the children enjoyed the fact that they were able to earn an income, meet friends and make new friends and appreciate their work. The children also stated that they learn a new skill.

#### Narrative: 10

Gavin is 14 years of age. Gavin is a gardener with the help of his family. His family used to be sellers of varieties of goods at the market place. Therefore Gavin understood that marketing was a process of giving and gaining something so he started in marketing for his family needs. He was withdrawn from school when he reached grade six due to financial problems faced by the family. The parents did not meet the school requirements like the paying of school fees, uniform, and other school stationaries. Gavin schedule of marketing is from Monday to Saturday depending on the products being sold. After one week of marketing, the other week he rests. While he is at home he is involved in other forms of activities like the making of a garden and helping relatives and friends in formal jobs, like cutting firewood, brushing of garden and cleaning around the house. However, this work was demanding because it was not an easy task to be completed in a month. It takes 2 to 5 months of hard work to before the process of harvesting and selling take place. During this time of market, the competition is very high because sellers sell products with the same quality so he is sometimes left unsold products. His plans and dreams in the future is to become a farmer.

*14 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

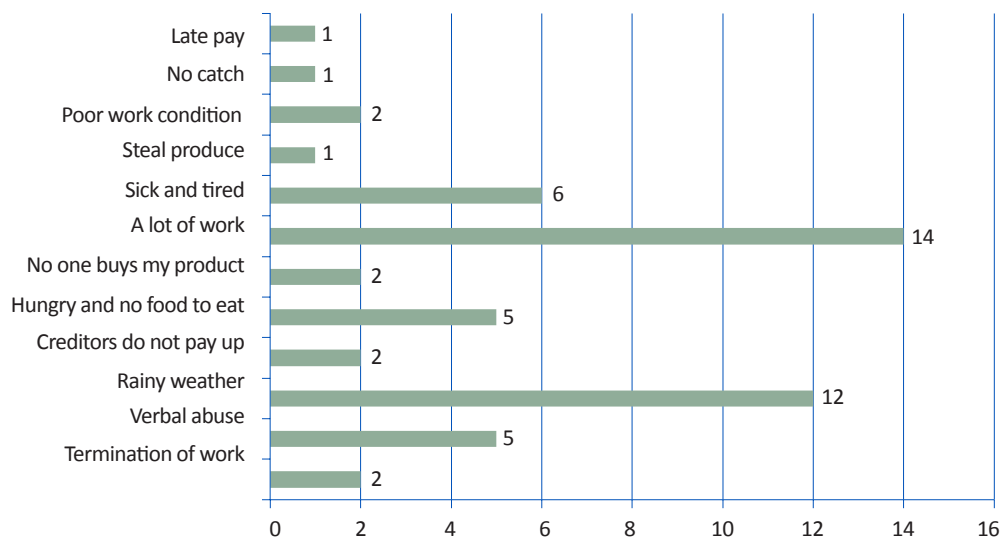
Figure 72: What do you enjoy most about the work that you do



## 5.4.2 What do you not enjoy about your work

Worst moments at work include when there is a lot of work, when the children are sick and tired. Bad weather condition have also hindered the children from working and it adversely affects their work.

Figure 73: What are your worst moments at work



### Narrative: 11

A sixteen year old boy helps his parents to plant a plantation of marijuana. He started this work since he was thirteen years old, and never attended any formal education as every day he helps his parents to clean and plant marijuana.

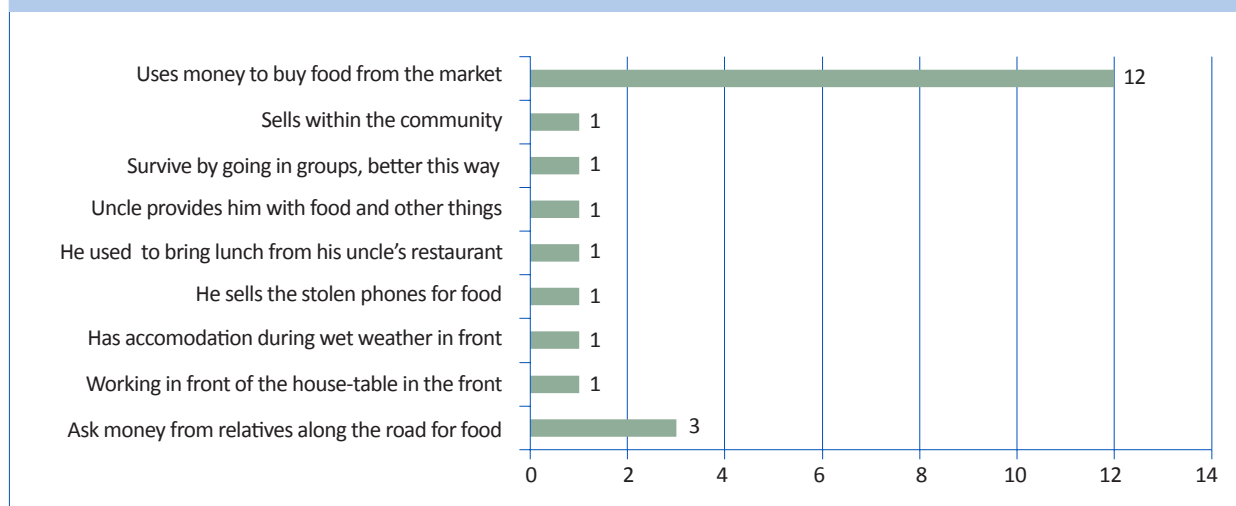
"Sometimes I feel very tired for doing this work such as cleaning and clearing the area, planting and harvesting, that I smell the drug and feel high all the time. My everyday job is to come to town to sell the marijuana and take the days earnings back to my parents. I feel that I am risking my life, once I am caught, I will be in a big problem. I may even go to prison for this which makes me very fearful and have to watch my back all the time. I know this is dangerous work, but this is the only source of income for my family."

*16 year old, interviewed in Honiara*

## 5.4.3 How do you survive on the street

Survival of the children on the street is important to their work. Most of these children are on their own when they are working on the street. They have to be street wise in order to fend for himself or herself. Some have a strategy on how they have to survive when they face challenges. As stated, some use a certain amount of their income for the day to purchase food while others ask for money from relatives they meet on the street. Some resort to regrouping and fend as a group.

Figure 74: How do you survive on the street



## 5.5 Children's aspirations, hopes and dreams

The majority of children interviewed wanted a better and brighter future. Some wanted good jobs that would bring them good money. Some identified white collar jobs that they hoped and dreamed to have in the future. For some children, getting back into the education system and becoming well-educated was their dream. Some stated that having a good and happy family was their dream. To most of the children, getting a good job was what they hoped to get in the future. However for many this may only be a dream because they had been deprived of their education and a good education is the key to getting a good job. The two lists below show that different aspirations included in the children's hopes and dreams for the future. Some of the children identified their hopes and dreams with the work they dreamed about doing in the future while other children hoped for a better future.

### Work I would like to do in future:

- Security firm
- Farmer businessman
- Business man
- Carpenter
- Civil engineer
- Doctor
- Teacher
- Educated
- Business man in the future
- Carpenter
- Dentist
- Nurse
- Pilot
- Mechanic

**Hopes for the future:**

- Hopes and dreams of becoming a farmer in the future, helping people who work in town by selling food crop and other items, also help parents livelihood such as education, house, church
- Hopes and dreams of schooling, to know to read and write properly and get qualified jobs to help parents
- Hopes that he could one day go back to his parents, dreams of becoming the chief of his village
- Hopes that the work he is doing earns money for better education for his siblings and dreams of building a permanent house for his mother in his father's land
- Hopes that when he gets money out from the market he can build a permanent building for family

**Narrative: 12**

Cathy is 13 years of age and is a street vendor. She sells betel nuts and smokes. Her working days is from Monday to Thursday, and Friday to Saturday are her days off. When she is at home she engages in washing, cooking, cleaning around the house and babysitting. She left her home at the beginning of this year, after the death of her parents. She has spent almost ten months trying to find small jobs that could help her earn money and ended up working for her relatives in the street market. The highest class she reached was class 5 but she left school because her parents were sick at that time. She is paid \$250 after a week but usually depends on how much she sells. The money she gets, she uses it for their survival and also for personal use. She said that if she got the chance to school, her dream is to know how to read and write, to reach a higher level of education, get a qualification and work at office.

*13 year old, interviewed in Honiara (name is fictional)*

## 06 Conclusions and recommendations

Our children are our future. A child has the right to play, laugh, be loved and cared for. Of the total children interviewed, at least 88 children are in the worst forms of child labour, with many children working below the minimum age of employment and out of school. All children must be allowed to at least reach a minimum level of education. Education is a major strategy that can be used to get children out of child labour. Children have the right to education. Children engaged in the worst forms of child labour need education and skill-based training programmes to enable them to obtain jobs that can earn good income.

The breakdown of our society and family unit cannot be used as a justification for children to be neglected even though it contributes to an environment which may lead to such exploitation. A range of other complex contributing factors include harmful traditional practices, economic disparities, inequitable socio-economic structures, dysfunctional families, lack of education, growing consumerism, urban-rural migration, gender discrimination, irresponsible male sexual behaviour, armed conflicts and trafficking of children. All these factors exacerbate the vulnerability of girls and boys to those who would seek to procure them for commercial sexual exploitation.

A concerted effort is needed to prevent and withdraw children from child labour, and may include:

- Commitment at the National level to address child labour issues, through the endorsement and implementation of a National Action Plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency, and strengthening of national laws to protect children from economic exploitation.
- Establishment of a child labour unit, child labour database and child labour inspection systems.
- Improving monitoring and enforcement of the laws and providing efficient and clear inspection and referral systems between stakeholders
- There is an urgent need for awareness and advocacy to inform the general public about child labour and the national child labour and child protection laws, with broad stakeholder involvement including government departments, faith based groups, schools, communities, non-government agencies, media and academia.
- Harmonise the inter-agency processes for addressing child abuse cases for a more integrated and multi-interdisciplinary service that is child friendly, and build the capacity of national stakeholders to understand and constructively address the worst forms of child labour and trafficking.
- Establish skills training and career opportunities for out of school older working children and include business and careers training in formal education curricular.
- Enhance social protection schemes that provides free education for children, assists financially deprived families, enables opportunities for employment and self-employment and increases health and social services particularly for child labourers.
- The adoption of child protection policies should be made compulsory for all workers in all sectors in the Solomon Islands so that everyone in the Solomon Islands has a common responsibility to protect children from any form of exploitation.

## Reference

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- <http://www.solomontimes.com/news/australia-promotes-human-rights-in-solomon-islands/1494>
- [https://www.worldvision.org.nz/media/72247/child\\_labour.pdf](https://www.worldvision.org.nz/media/72247/child_labour.pdf)



## Appendix 1: Some applicable definitions

In the context of the ILO research framework for child labour and the child labour Conventions, the following definitions have been used in the Rapid Assessment.

**Bonded labour:** the relationship of debt slavery where labour is pledged (mortgaged) against a debt (same as debt bondage). A bonded labourer has to work until all debts have been paid. In many instances labourers are bonded for life or for generations.

**Child:** A 'child' means a person who is under eighteen years of age, unless, under the law applicable to the child, the majority is attained earlier. Both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182, define a child as a person below the age of 18 years.

**Child domestic labour:** domestic work undertaken by children in third party households (another person's household) under the legal minimum working age or under slavery-like, hazardous or other exploitative conditions.

**Child exploitation:** Child exploitation is the act of using a child for profit, labour, sexual gratification or some other personal or financial advantage, often in violation of the child's rights and national labour laws as well as international conventions and recommendations.

**Child labour:** Child labour is defined as "work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development"<sup>9</sup>. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or combining school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. Child labour is a narrower concept than "economically active children", excluding all those children aged 12 years and older who are working only a few hours a week in permitted light work and those aged 15 years and above whose work is not classified as hazardous or other worst forms of child labour.

**Child trafficking:** the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person below the age of 18 years old, whether by force or not, by a third person or group for exploitative purposes. Movement may not be a constituent element for trafficking in so far as law enforcement and prosecution is concerned. However, an element of movement within a country or across borders is needed - even if minimal - in order to distinguish trafficking from other forms of slavery and slave-like practices enumerated in Art 3 (a) of ILO Convention No.182, and ensure that trafficking victims separated from their families do get needed assistance. Exploitation may include sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

**Children at risk:** children below the age of 18 years old who are at risk of entering into child labour, whether through economic, social or psychological vulnerability, including financial difficulties, family breakdown, illiteracy, dropping out of school, peer pressure and so forth.

**Commercial sexual exploitation of children:** is the exploitation by an adult with respect to a child or an adolescent – female or male – under 18 years old; accompanied by a payment in money or in kind to the child or adolescent (male or female) or to one or more third parties. Commercial sexual exploitation in children includes all of the following:

- The use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind (commonly known as child prostitution) in the streets or indoors, in such places as brothels, discotheques, massage parlours, bars, hotels, restaurants, etc.;
- The trafficking of girls and boys and adolescents for the sex trade;
- Child sex tourism;
- The production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children;
- The use of children in sex shows (public or private).

9 ILO, IPEC, Child labour definition: <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

**Convention:** A Convention is a legal text and a formal agreement between States. Conventions are normally open for participation to the international community as a whole, or by a large number of States. A Convention is legally binding once entered into force, which means that principles have to be respected and enforceable.

**Economic activity:** is a broad concept that covers most productive activities undertaken by children, whether for the market or not, paid or unpaid, for a few hours or full time, on a casual or regular basis, legal or illegal; it excludes chores undertaken in the child's own household and schooling. To be counted as economically active, a child must have worked for at least one hour on any day during a seven-day reference period. "Economically active children" is a statistical rather than a legal notion.

**Focus group discussions:** a method of collecting information on a particular topic involving a carefully planned discussion among a small group led by a trained facilitator or moderator. The members of the focus group usually share common characteristics such as same age, sex, socio-economic background, may be from the same community etc.

**Hazardous work:** It is work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed, or injured and/or made ill as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements.

**Informal Sector:** a system of trade or economic exchange used outside of state control or money based transactions. Practiced by most of the world's population, it includes goods and services, mutual self-help, odd jobs, street trading and other direct sales activities.

**Informal settlements:** a settlement of dwellings occupying Fijian customary (Native) land with some type of informal consensual arrangement with Fijian landowners but without any legal form of security tenure.

**Key informants:** people who are believed to have in-depth knowledge and understanding of an issue.

**Light work:** Light work is work that is allowed for children between 13 to 14 years old and is not likely to be harmful to children's health or development and not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received. For statistical purposes this is defined as work that does not exceed 2 hours a day or 14 hours a week.

**Perpetrator:** refers to persons who facilitate or organise the sexual exploitation of children in exchange for cash goods or in-kind payment.

**Ratification:** It is a commitment to adopt and enforce in the national legislation the principles of an agreement that legally bound by the ratifying State.

**School drop-out:** children below 18 years old who have dropped out or prematurely left the formal school system.

**Sexual exploitation:** Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. This may also include sex tourism in the category of sexual exploitation.

**Street children:** children under the age of 18 who work on the streets whether living at home or on the streets.

**Worst Forms of Child Labour:** is the types of child labour seen as particularly terrible or dreadful, by the international community that they have agreed that there should be urgent action to eliminate, as a priority, these *worst* forms of child labour. These are mainly criminal activities such as children working under conditions of slave-like practices, in bonded labour and in the armed forces; children in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficked; children used for illicit activities such as to traffic drugs; and children working in hazardous conditions and environments.

**Unstable Families:** Families with problems or dysfunctional relations that may lack adequate parental supervision and have a high number of unemployment and low income earners in big size family.

## Appendix 2: Additional table

Age by education status, by category of work and how many hours a day spent doing this work						
How many hours a day do you spend doing this work?	Category of work		Are you still in school?			
			Yes	Yes	Never been to school	Total
1-2 hours	Domestic- own family	12-13 years old	1			1
			1			1
	Street vending	6-7 years old		1		1
		16-17 years old		1		1
				2		2
	Loading, unloading, moving cargo	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Street cleaning	6-7 years old	1	0		1
		12-13 years old	0	1		1
		16-17 years old	1	1		2
			2	2		4
	Scavenging -collecting tins, bottles, cans	10-11 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	8-9 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Farming- other families	6-7 years old	1			1
			1			1
3-4 hours	Domestic- own family	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Street vending	14-15 years old	1	2		3
			1	2		3
	Market vending	8-9 years old		2		2
		10-11 years old		1		1
		16-17 years old		3		3
				6		6
	Farming- own family	8-9 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	12-13 years old	1			1
			1			1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	8-9 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Pickpocketing	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Drug cultivation and peddling	16-17 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Domestic- relatives	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Farming- other families	16-17 years old	1			1
			1			1

5-6 hours	Street vending	14-15 years old		1	0	1
		16-17 years old		0	1	1
				1	1	2
	Market vending	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Construction - Furniture making	14-15 years old	1			1
			1			1
	Bartender	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Farming- other families	14-15 years old	1	0		1
7-8 hours		16-17 years old	0	1		1
			1	1		2
	Domestic- own family	8-9 years old		2		2
		12-13 years old		1		1
				3		3
	Street vending	8-9 years old		1		1
		10-11 years old		1		1
		12-13 years old		2		2
		14-15 years old		2		2
				6		6
	Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	16-17 years old		6		6
				6		6
	Market vending	12-13 years old	1	2	0	3
		14-15 years old	0	0	1	1
			1	2	1	4
	Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	14-15 years old		1		1
		16-17 years old		3		3
				4		4
	Construction - Furniture making	14-15 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Loading, unloading, moving cargo	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Street cleaning	12-13 years old	0	1		1
		16-17 years old	1	0		1
			1	1		2
	Packing of beer bottles - cans	16-17 years old	1	2		3
			1	2		3
	Scavenging - collecting tins, bottles, cans	8-9 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	6-7 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Digging drains and wells	10-11 years old		1		1
				1		1

	Drug cultivation and peddling	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Domestic- relatives	10-11 years old		0	1	1
		12-13 years old		1	0	1
				1	1	2
	Domestic- other families	12-13 years old		1		1
		16-17 years old		2		2
				3		3
	Designing lavalava	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
9-10 hours	Domestic- own family	12-13 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Street vending	16-17 years old		2		2
				2		2
	Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	16-17 years old		3		3
				3		3
	Market vending	12-13 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Mechanical-Spraying and cleaning cars	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Brick layering, tiling, mixing cement	14-15 years old	1			1
			1			1
	Construction - Furniture making	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Loading, unloading, moving cargo	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	10-11 years old			1	1
		14-15 years old			1	1
					2	2
	Pickpocketing	8-9 years old			1	1
					1	1
11-12 hours	Domestic- own family	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Market vending	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Bus Conductor car wash	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	8-9 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Security Guard	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Fishing	14-15 years old		1		1
				1		1

More than 12 hours	Street vending	14-15 years old		1		1
		16-17 years old		1		1
				2		2
	Cashiers, Shop assistant, Store keepers	12-13 years old		1		1
		14-15 years old		1		1
		16-17 years old		2		2
				4		4
	Market vending	16-17 years old		2	2	4
				2	2	4
	Farming- own family	12-13 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Bus Conductor car wash	14-15 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Begging	12-13 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Domestic- relatives	12-13 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Cook, Kitchen hand	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
No set time	Domestic- own family	14-15 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Street vending	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Market vending	10-11 years old			1	1
					1	1
	Bus Conductor car wash	16-17 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Collecting bottles for oil and petrol	8-9 years old		0	1	1
		10-11 years old		1	0	1
				1	1	2
	Domestic- relatives	14-15 years old		1		1
				1		1
	Domestic- other families	14-15 years old		1		1
				1		1

## Appendix 3: Semi- Structured Questionnaire for Children at work (General child labour group)

Greetings! My name is ..... and I am working as an interviewer for a Rapid Assessment (Research) on working children between 6 to 17 years old. (Confirm the age of research participant)

This Rapid Assessment (Research) is to find out working children, children in child labour and what type of child labour they may be in, the reasons children are working, their living and working conditions, their educational levels, and their life goals. This information will be used to design effective policies and actions to improve the situation of children and ensure that children are receiving education before work.

The Rapid Assessment (Research) is being carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO is a UN Agency whose core function is to improve the world of work. The ILO has an International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), whose goal is to support programmes and policies to withdraw children from child labour, provide children with education and skills training, and ensure children receive rehabilitation and counselling support. IPEC also supports programmes for families on income generation and works with schools and communities to prevent children from falling into child labour.

Your participation in this Rapid Assessment (Research) is voluntary. You have the right to choose not to participate, and you are free to discontinue at any time. This research may include topics of a personal nature. However, all your answers and personal data will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for the purpose of this research. We encourage you to be as honest as possible - there is no right or wrong answers. We are simply seeking to gain an accurate picture of your situation and what you think and feel about it. You will have the opportunity, if you wish to obtain a copy of the results of the research in which you are taking part.

We have a number of questions that would like to ask you please be assured that your responses will be kept in complete confidence. The interview will take approximately an hour during which time we will be noting down answers. Would you have the time to help us with our study?

---

### CONSENT

I have understood all the information above, and give my voluntary consent to participate in this research. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

<b>F1</b>	<b>Research Team:</b>	
<b>F2</b>	<b>Area Location:</b>	
<b>F3</b>	<b>Respondent Number:</b>	
<b>F4</b>	<b>Location of Interview:</b>	
<b>F5</b>	<b>Data Collection</b> Name of Interviewer: Date: Time Started: Time Ended: Supervisor's Name: Date Checked:	
This section to be answered by all child respondents (6-17years only) on general information and living conditions		
1.	Contact Details of interviewee (voluntary):	
2.	How old are you? .....years	
3.	Gender: 1. Male 2. Female	
4.	Where is your family originally from? 1. Province: 2. Village: 3. Other:	
5.	Where are your parents? 1. Both parents dead 2. Both parents live in my original hometown/village 3. Both parents live with me 4. Only my father lives with me 5. Only my mother lives with me 6. Others, specify _____	
6.	Who do you live with? 1. No one, I am on my own 2. With parents 3. With brothers/sisters 4. With other relatives 5. Others, specify	
7.	Where do you live? 1. On the street 2. Renting in town area 3. Live in a rural village: Name _____ 4. Live in an urban village: Name _____ 5. Other: please clarify:	
This section to be answered only by child respondents (5-17years only) who do not live with their biological parents		



8.	Why did you leave your original home? This may refer to their provincial homes as well as home in Honiara if they have left their home. Please explain.	
9.	Who did you come with? 1. Parents 2. Relatives 3. Friends 4. On your own 5. Others:	
10.	Did you inform your parents or relatives with that you were leaving? 1. Yes 2. No Explain why or why not:	
11.	When was the last time you visited your parents? 1. Last week 2. Last month 3. 3 – 6 months ago 4. 6 months – 1 year ago 5. More than 1 year 6. Parents are dead 7. I don't visit them	
12.	Why haven't you visited them?	
13.	How long ago did you leave your original home? 1. Days _____ 2. Months _____ 3. Years _____ 4. I don't remember	
14.	How long have you been in this town? 1. 1 – 3 months 2. 3 – 6 months 3. 1 – 2 years 4. More: Specify	
<b>This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on working conditions</b>		
15	Do you do any form of work where you earn an income or are paid in some other form or way? 1. Yes 2. No	
16.	When did you start doing this type of work? 1. Days _____ ago 2. Months _____ ago 3. Years _____ ago 4. I don't remember	

17.	<p>How did you find this work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By myself</li> <li>2. Other people asked me to work for them</li> <li>3. Through friends</li> <li>4. Through parents</li> <li>5. Through relatives</li> <li>6. Others - specify:</li> </ol>	
18.	<p>Describe the work that you do?</p>	
19.	<p>How old were you when you started doing this work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6 – 8 years old</li> <li>2. 9 – 11 years old</li> <li>3. 12 – 14 years old</li> <li>4. 15 – 17 years old</li> <li>5. 18 years old</li> <li>6. Below 6 years old (specify)</li> </ol>	
20.	<p>How many hours a day do you spend doing this work?</p> <p>Time Start: _____ Time End: _____</p>	
21.	<p>Do you move out of your town or village boundary or area as part of the work that you do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>If so, please explain</p>	
22.	<p>How are you paid?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cash</li> <li>2. In Kind.</li> </ol>	
23.	<p>How much do you earn or what do you earn?</p>	
24.	<p>What do you do with your earnings?</p>	
25.	<p>Do you enjoy the work that you do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
26.	<p>Why do you enjoy (or not) the work that you do?</p>	
27.	<p>Who do you work for?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Self-employed</li> <li>2. Employer</li> <li>3. Family</li> <li>4. Relatives</li> <li>5. Friends</li> <li>6. Others (specify)</li> </ol>	

28.	<p>Do you work on your own?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, I work on my own</li> <li>No, I work with my family</li> <li>No, I work with relatives</li> <li>No, I work with other children</li> <li>No, I work with others: Specify</li> </ol>	
29.	<p>Are you doing any other kind of work? This may include household chores etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ol>	
30.	<p>What is it? List all responses</p>	
31.	<p>When do you do this other work?</p> <p>Start : _____ End: _____</p>	
32.	<p>Do you feel safe at work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ol>	
33.	<p>What makes you feel unsafe at work?</p>	
34.	<p>What makes you feel safe at work?</p>	
35.	<p>Have you ever been sick or injured because of your work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ol>	
36.	<p>What type of sickness or injury was it?</p>	
37.	<p>During the time you were sick/ injured; did anyone take care of you?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ol>	
38.	<p>Did you seek medical help?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ol>	
39.	<p>Who did you seek this medical help from?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctor</li> <li>Traditional Healer</li> <li>Family</li> <li>Relatives</li> <li>Friends</li> <li>Other (specify):</li> </ol>	
40.	<p>Why didn't you seek medical help?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of money</li> <li>No medical centre nearby</li> <li>Sickness or injury not serious</li> <li>Others:</li> </ol>	

41.	<p>Did this affect your work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
42.	<p>Do you wear protective clothing or gear while working?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If yes, which ones?</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
43.	How old were you when you first started working to earn an income?	
44.	<p>Did you have to stop school in order to start work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
45.	<p>Who put you to work the first time?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parents</li> <li>2. Relatives</li> <li>3. Friends</li> <li>4. Self</li> <li>5. Others</li> </ol>	
46.	<p>Why did you have to start work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Family needed more income (poverty)</li> <li>2. I was sold</li> <li>3. Parents had a debt</li> <li>4. I had run away from home</li> <li>5. Others (specify):</li> </ol>	
47.	<p>For children who work on the streets- How do you survive on the streets?</p> <p>List all responses.</p>	
48.	<p>For children in CDW/ working in other people's households- Do you have any time off from your work? How is your time off work arranged? i.e. lunch breaks, holidays etc. Explore rest periods and activities undertaken during leisure time and whether child is paid for time off?</p>	
49.	What do you enjoy most about the work that you do?	
50.	What was your worst moment at work?	

This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on education

51.	Do you know how to read? 1. Yes 2. No (Please ask him/her to read this questionnaire to verify whether he/she is able to read)	
52.	Do you know how to write? 1. Yes 2. No (Please ask him/ her to write something)	
53.	Have you ever been to school? 1. Yes, formal only 2. Yes, informal only 3. Both formal and informal 4. Never- (If never, why not?)	
54.	Are you still in school? 1. Yes 2. No  If yes, what class are you in? _____ If no, what is the highest class you have reached?	
55.	Why did you stop going to school?	
56.	Given the chance would you like to go back to school? Why?	
57.	Have you ever been absent from school? 1. Yes 2. No  If yes, how often? Why?	
58.	What do you usually eat? i.e. your normal daily meal	
59.	Have you been without food any days last week and if so why?	
60.	What are your hopes and dreams?	

## Appendix 3: Semi- Structured Questionnaire for Children in commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking

Greetings! My name is ..... and I am working as an interviewer for a Rapid Assessment (Research) on children in commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution, pornography etc.) below 18 years old. **(Confirm the age of research participant)**

The study is about children and commercial sexual exploitation. I want to assure you that all of your answers will be kept strictly confidential. I will not keep a record of your name or address. You have the right to stop the interview at any time, or to skip any questions that you don't want to answer. There is no right or wrong answers. Some of the topics may be difficult to discuss, but many people have found it useful to have the opportunity to talk. Your participation is completely voluntary but your experiences could be very helpful in ensuring children are protected and removed from commercial sexual exploitation.

The Rapid Assessment (Research) is being carried out by the International Labour Organization. The ILO is a UN Agency whose core function is to improve the world of work. The ILO has an International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), whose goal is to support programmes and policies to withdraw children from child labour, provide children with education and skills training, and ensure children receive rehabilitation and counselling support. IPEC also supports programmes for families on income generation and works with schools and communities to prevent children from falling into child labour.

Your participation in this Rapid Assessment (Research) is voluntary. You have the right to choose not to participate, and you are free to discontinue at any time. This research may include topics of a personal nature. However, all your answers and personal data will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for the purpose of this research. We encourage you to be as honest as possible - there is no right or wrong answers. We are simply seeking to gain an accurate picture of your situation and what you think and feel about it. You will have the opportunity, if you wish to obtain a copy of the results of the research in which you are taking part.

We have a number of questions that would like to ask you please be assured that your responses will be kept in complete confidence. The interview will take approximately an hour during which time we will be noting down answers. Would you have the time to help us with our study?

---

### CONSENT

I have understood all the information above, and give my voluntary consent to participate in this research. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

<b>F1</b>	<b>Research Team:</b>	
<b>F2</b>	<b>Area Location:</b>	
<b>F3</b>	<b>Respondent Number:</b>	
<b>F4</b>	<b>Location of Interview:</b>	
<b>F5</b>	<b>Data Collection</b> Name of Interviewer: Date: Time Started: Time Ended: Supervisor's Name: Date Checked:	
<b>This section to be answered by all child respondents (6-17years only) on general information and living conditions</b>		
	How old are you? .....years 1. Don't know 2. Refused	
	Gender: 1. Male 2. Female 3. Transgender	
	Where is your family originally from? 1. Province: 2. Village: 3. Other:	
	Where are your parents? 1. Both parents dead 2. Both parents live in my original hometown/village 3. Both parents live with me 4. Only my father lives with me 5. Only my mother lives with me 6. Others, specify _____	
	Who do you live with? 1. No one, I am on my own 2. With parents 3. With brothers/sisters 4. With other relatives 5. With boyfriend/ partner 6. With friends 7. With husband 8. Others, specify	
	What is your marital status? 1. Single 2. Married 3. Living with boyfriend/ partner 4. Separated 5. Divorced 6. Widowed 7. Other 8. Don't Know 9. Refused	

	<p>Where do you live?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On the street</li> <li>2. Renting in town area</li> <li>3. Live in a rural village: Name _____</li> <li>4. Live in an urban village: Name _____</li> <li>5. Other: please clarify:</li> </ol>	
<p><b>This section to be answered only by child respondents (5-17years only) who do not live with their biological parents</b></p>		
	<p>Why did you leave your original home? This may refer to their provincial homes as well as home in Honiara if they have left their home. Please explain.</p>	
	<p>Who did you come here with?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parents</li> <li>2. Relatives</li> <li>3. Friends</li> <li>4. On your own</li> <li>5. Others:</li> </ol>	
	<p>Did you inform your parents or relatives that you were leaving</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>Explain why or why not:</p>	
	<p>When was the last time you visited your parents?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Last week</li> <li>2. Last month</li> <li>3. 3 – 6 months ago</li> <li>4. 6 months – 1 year ago</li> <li>5. More than 1 year</li> <li>6. Parents are dead</li> <li>7. I don't visit them</li> </ol>	
	<p>Why haven't you visited them?</p>	
	<p>How long ago did you leave your original home?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Days _____</li> <li>2. Months _____</li> <li>3. Years _____</li> <li>4. I don't remember</li> </ol>	
	<p>How long have you been in this town?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 – 3 months</li> <li>2. 3 – 6 months</li> <li>3. 1 – 2 years</li> <li>4. More: Specify</li> </ol>	



**This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on nature of commercial sexual exploitation**

	<p>How old were you when you started doing this? When did you first become a sex worker?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6 – 8 years old</li> <li>2. 9 – 11 years old</li> <li>3. 12 – 14 years old</li> <li>4. 15 – 17 years old</li> <li>5. 18 years old</li> <li>6. Below 6 years old (specify)</li> </ol>	
	<p>How did you find this work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By myself</li> <li>2. Other people asked me to work for them</li> <li>3. Through friends</li> <li>4. Through parents</li> <li>5. Through relatives</li> <li>6. Others - specify:</li> </ol>	
	<p>Where do you mostly engage in commercial sexual activity?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beach</li> <li>2. Motel</li> <li>3. Hotel</li> <li>4. Houses nearby</li> <li>5. Cars</li> <li>6. Other: Specify</li> </ol>	
	<p>When do you normally engage in this activity?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During high tourist period</li> <li>2. Whenever there is a demand</li> <li>3. When there is a need for money</li> <li>4. After school hours</li> <li>5. Other specify</li> </ol>	
	<p>How do you search for clients?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stand on Street</li> <li>2. Middle-person</li> <li>3. Work at Brothel/Motel</li> <li>4. Go to Bars/Clubs</li> <li>5. Others: Specify</li> </ol>	
	<p>How many clients do you normally receive in 24 hours?</p>	
	<p>What is the maximum number of clients that you have had in a 24hr period?</p>	
	<p>How many hours a day do you spend doing this work?</p> <p>Time Start: _____ Time</p> <p>End: _____</p>	

	<p>Do you travel or move out of your town or village boundary or area as part of the work that you do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>If so, please explain</p>	
<b>This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on remuneration and earnings</b>		
	<p>For commercial sexual relations, what do you receive? (multiple response)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Money</li> <li>2. Gifts</li> <li>3. Other</li> </ol>	
	<p>How are you paid?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cash</li> <li>2. In Kind.</li> </ol>	
	How much do you earn in a week? (Average daily/ weekly earnings)	
	What do you do with your earnings?	
	<p>Do you keep all of your cash earnings?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Sometimes</li> <li>4. Other: specify</li> </ol>	
	If No, then who takes a share?	
	What percent of the earnings are you allowed to keep?	
	What do you do with the money you earn?	
	What was the most valuable thing you ever received from a client?	
	Do you have any other source of income? If yes, what and how much do you earn from it?	
	<p>Do you enjoy the work that you do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	

	Why do you enjoy (or not) the work that you do?	
	Who do you work for?	
	Do you work on your own? 1. Yes, I work on my own 2. No, I work with my family 3. No, I work with relatives 4. No, I work with other children 5. No, I work with others: Specify	
	Are you doing any other kind of work? 1. Yes 2. No	
	What is it and how much do you get for doing this other type of work?	
	When do you do this other work?  Start : _____ End: _____	
	How old were you when you first started working to earn an income?	
	Did you have to stop school in order to start work? 1. Yes 2. No	
	Why did you have to start work? 1. Family needed more income (poverty) 2. I was sold 3. Parents had a debt 4. I had run away from home 5. Others (specify):	
	How do you get into this type of activity? 1. Pimp 2. Trafficker 3. Friend 4. Yourself 5. Taxi Driver 6. Employer: Specify _____ 7. Relative 8. Refused 9. Other, Specify	

	<p>If by a pimp/trafficker/friend/other, please state your relation to the person</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Father</li> <li>2. Mother</li> <li>3. Sibling</li> <li>4. Spouse</li> <li>5. Boyfriend</li> <li>6. Girlfriend</li> <li>7. Friend</li> <li>8. Other, specify</li> <li>9. Refused</li> </ol>	
	What pushed you into or attracted you to get involved in commercial sex?	
<b>This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on history of sexual abuse/exploitation</b>		
	<p>Have you been sexually abused?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Refused to answer</li> </ol>	
	How old were you then?	
	How long did this go on for?	
	<p>Type of first sexual encounter: (multiple response)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rape</li> <li>2. Molestation</li> <li>3. Sexual Intercourse</li> <li>4. Don't Know</li> <li>5. Refused</li> <li>6. Others (specify)</li> </ol>	
	<p>Where did it happen?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child's Home</li> <li>2. Child's Relative's Home</li> <li>3. Abuser's Home or abuser's friends/relative's home</li> <li>4. Hotel/Motel</li> <li>5. Beach</li> <li>6. Cars/Vehicles</li> <li>7. Other, specify</li> </ol>	

	Who was the perpetrator? 1. Foreigner 2. Relative, please specify 3. Friend 4. Stranger 5. Someone I know	
<b>This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on impacts of work</b>		
	Is there any member of your family/household doing this same work? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure 4. Refused to answer	
	Do your parents/guardians know that you were involved in commercial sexual activity? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure 4. Refused to answer	
	If yes, what were their reactions?	
	Do your community/ friends know that you were involved in commercial sexual activity? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure 4. Refused to answer	
	If yes, what were their reactions?	
	Do you feel safe at work? 1. Yes 2. No	
	What makes you feel unsafe at work?	
	What makes you feel safe at work?	

	<p>Have you ever been sick or injured as a result of your work?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
	<p>What type of sickness or injury was it?</p>	
	<p>During the time you were sick/ injured; did anyone take care of you?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
	<p>Have you ever contracted a Sexually Transmitted Infection/ Disease (STI or STD)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Refused</li> </ol>	
	<p>Have you ever been punished by the police or any authority?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Refused</li> </ol>	
	<p>If yes, what type of punishment was it and why were you punished?</p>	
	<p>Have you ever been condemned by your family members?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
	<p>Have you ever been condemned by your community members?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
	<p>Do you do any of the following activities? (Multiple response)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consume alcohol</li> <li>2. Use drugs</li> <li>3. Smoke</li> <li>4. Other</li> </ol>	
	<p><i>For children who work on the streets or from hotels or motels- How do you survive on the streets/ in hotels/ motels? List all responses.</i></p>	

**This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old) on education**

	<p>Do you know how to read?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>(Please ask him/her to read this questionnaire to verify whether he/she is able to read)</p>	
	<p>Do you know how to write?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>(Please ask him/ her to write something)</p>	
	<p>Have you ever been to school?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> <li>3. Never (why not)</li> </ol>	
	<p>Are you still in school?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>If yes, what class are you in? _____</p> <p>If no, what is the highest class you have reached?</p>	
	<p>Why did you stop going to school?</p>	
	<p>Given the chance would you like to go back to school? Why?</p>	
	<p>Have you ever been absent from school?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol> <p>If yes, how often? Why?</p>	
<b>This section to be answered by all child respondents (5-17years old)</b>		
	<p>What do you usually eat? i.e. your normal daily meal</p>	

	Have you been without food any days last week and if so why?	
	Would you prefer not to be involved in commercial sexual activities?	
	If yes, what would you prefer to do?	
	Are you free to stop working as a child sex worker if you wish to? 1. Yes 2. No	
	If No, why not?	
	Do you feel that this activity is dangerous at times?	
	If yes, Specify	
	Would you ever want your brothers/sisters to be involved an activity of this nature? 1. Yes 2. No  If yes, why _____  If no, reasons _____	
	What do you fear most?	
	What do you wish for? What are your hopes and dreams?	



## Appendix 4: Instructions for the Research Assistants

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- Dress appropriately, taking care not to offend or intimidate the potential interviewee
- Introduce yourself and explain your intentions clearly. You may share more about yourself to help establish a natural, relaxed and comfortable setting for the interview to proceed
- Explain the reasons for the interview and what will be done with the answers.
- Get informed consent from the participant.
- Assure the interviewee that all content and information exchanged will be held in the strictest of confidence
- Use language that the interviewee is comfortable with
- Ensure that you are wearing your identification card or have some form of identification present with you at all times during the research
- Avoid sensitive questions at the beginning; leave them until later in the interview.
- Listen carefully. Try not to repeat questions.
- The child's safety is paramount. Ensure that where you are conducting the interview is in a setting that is comfortable, acceptable and safe for the child
- Look out for 'warning signs' during the interview. These include the child's being non-responsive, disinterested, tired, uncomfortable and varying emotional responses and behavior etc.
- If the interviewee is uncomfortable with the situation, break off the interview.
- If a question causes silence, or cannot be answered, avoid suggesting answers.
- Ask the question in a different way or ask the question again later during the interview.
- Avoid any indication of disbelief, contempt or ridicule of responses given by the interviewees.
- Adapt where necessary as new information is provided by the interviewee
- Summarize the interview when complete for the benefit of the interviewee





## About the ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency devoted to promoting rights at work, encouraging decent employment opportunities for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity, and enhancing social protection. It is unique in that it brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to jointly shape policies and programmes and strengthen their dialogue.

The ILO develops international labour standards and works with members States to ensure they are respected in practice as well as principle.

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries based in Fiji, provides technical assistance to eleven member States (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), as well as to non-member States in the region as required, on a wide range of areas including: labour migration; the elimination of child labour; promotion of gender equality; labour law reform; protecting seafarers; labour market statistics; occupational safety and health; HIV/AIDs in the workplace; youth employment; and entrepreneurship development.

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